

"Collectively, we can demonstrate to the people of Ohio that we are committed to an open and fruitful discussion of the issues and in the process help inform the voters of the choice they face with this election," the letter reads.

Portman campaign spokeswoman Michawn Rich said in a statement the campaign looks forward to comparing and contrasting the two candidates' records.

"This comes as a welcome surprise given that after a year of refusing to debate, Ted Strickland and his 'invisible' campaign had a change of heart and are now committed to an 'open and fruitful discussion of the issues,'" Ms. Rich said. "As Ted Strickland and his campaign are well aware, we are already receiving debate requests and we look forward to finalizing details with his staff."

Sen. Portman's campaign meanwhile announced a goal of contacting 50,000 voters on April 23 through an effort it has dubbed "Super Saturday."

During a previous "Super Saturday" in October, more than 600 volunteers contacted upwards of 41,000 voters in one day, according to the campaign.

"We are building the most advanced grassroots organization in Ohio history and we are excited about working with thousands of volunteers that know Ohio can't afford to go back to Ted Strickland's Ohio," Ms. Rich said.

"While Ted Strickland runs his 'invisible' campaign, we are proud to work with our impressive team of volunteers and interns who have helped us contact more than 1.5 million voters since last May," he continued. "Ohio voters will have a clear choice in November between moving forward with Rob's pro-growth policies for better wages and more jobs, or returning to Ted Strickland's failed policies of higher taxes, more regulations, and bigger government."

**Capital Bill:** Ahead of the release of the capital bill (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 8, 2016), the Buckeye Institute is slamming the \$150 million likely to be set aside for local projects.

"At a time where critical infrastructure needs are emerging across the state, spending state dollars on items that should be paid for locally is not an optimal use of scarce resources," Greg Lawson, the organization's Statehouse liaison and policy analyst, said in a statement. "Ohio policymakers should focus on what is really needed to help the state prosper while letting local taxpayers make local decisions."

In a report issued, the organization lists what it believes to be the "five most ridiculous capital budget requests of 2016." They include:

- \$10.6 million for a "Triumph of Flight" statute at I-70 and I-75 in Dayton
- \$2 million to renovate an exhibit at the Cleveland Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

- \$1.5 million to refurbish parts of Mapfre Stadium in Columbus
- \$150,000 for the Madcap Productions theater and exhibit hall
- \$50,000-\$100,000 for the Bowling Green Curling Club ice rink

**Abortion:** Both sides of the abortion debate will converge on the Statehouse this week.

Ohio Right to Life will hold a Legislative Day on Tuesday at the Statehouse in which anti-abortion advocates will lobby for the "Down Syndrome Non-Discrimination Act."

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio on Wednesday will hold Freedom of Choice Ohio's Annual Advocacy Day, beginning at Trinity Episcopal Church and moving to the Statehouse.

"Ohio, like many states, has seen an increase in barriers to women's access to vital and high quality health care services," the group stated. "This coordinated effort is part of a larger strategy that is being used nationwide to eventually remove access to safe and legal abortion."

**Black Lung Measure:** Rep. Jack Cera (D-Bellaire) on Monday touted the introduction of a bill (HB 510) designed to help protect coal miners who are diagnosed with black lung.

"Dealing with black lung disease is a tough reality for many of Ohio's coal miners who work some of our hardest and most dangerous jobs," he said in a statement. "Providing a fair opportunity for benefits as they deal with this debilitating disease is important for the miners and their families. I hope that my colleagues in the legislature will agree."

The legislation would create a workers' compensation process similar to that in West Virginia for coal miners with black lung.

"A miner who lives in Ohio but worked in West Virginia can currently receive at least partial benefits through West Virginia, but a miner who lives and works in Ohio has a more difficult time being approved for benefits," Rep. Cera said. "This bill will help provide a miner who has contracted black lung to have a better chance of receiving at least some benefit to help them through this difficult time."

**Kasich Schedule:** Gov. John Kasich has four campaign events scheduled this week in New York ahead of the state's presidential primary next week.

Gov. Kasich held two town hall events on Monday, including one hosted by Fox News' Sean Hannity, along with a press availability.

On Tuesday, the governor is set to deliver a speech in New York City on the "Two Paths" facing the American electorate in 2016.

**GOP Dinner:** The Ohio Republican Party's 2016 state dinner will feature radio talk show host Hugh Hewitt as the keynote speaker.

The June 4 event will also feature Sen. Portman.

**Equal Pay:** Democrats on Tuesday will hold a press conference in Akron to coincide with Equal Pay Day.

The event, which will feature Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper and Summit County Clerk of Courts Sandra Kurt, will highlight the gender pay disparity, which Democrats says amounts to about \$10,597 between men and women who work full time in the state.

---

### **Supplemental Agency Calendar**

**Tuesday, April 12**

---

State Board of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 8 a.m.

**Thursday, April 14**

---

Criminal Justice Recodification Committee, House Finance Hearing Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 1 p.m.

---

### **Supplemental Event Planner**

**Tuesday, April 12**

---

Legislative leaders news conference on capital bill, Harding Senate Press Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

House Democrats news conference on bill to restrict local hiring options, PLAs (SB152), George Washington Williams Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 10:30 a.m.

State leaders news conference on efforts to boost fight against prescription drug abuse, CompDrug Inc., 1420 Fields Ave., Columbus, 11:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, April 13**

---

**Immunization Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse**

Ohio Library Council Legislative Day, Statehouse, Columbus, (The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library's Mobile Technology Lab will be parked and available for tours on the Third Street side of the Senate Bldg. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

Freedom of Choice Ohio's Annual Advocacy Day, Trinity Episcopal Church, 125 E. Broad St. & Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Ohio Library Council news conference on ROI report, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 11 a.m.

**Wednesday, May 11**

---

Sen. Capri Cafaro (D-Hubbard) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host - \$1000; Sponsor - \$750; Friend - \$500 to Friends of Senator Cafaro)

**Saturday, June 4**

---

Ohio Republican Party 2016 State Dinner, Hyatt Regency Ballroom, 350 N. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (See <https://www.ohiogop.org/statedinner/> for more information)

**Tuesday, June 7**

---

Ohio Senate Democratic Caucus fundraiser, Huntington Park, 330 Huntington Park Ln., Columbus, 6 p.m., (Private Reception

at 6 PM - Game starts at 7:05 PM; Contribution Levels: Host - \$1,500; Sponsor - \$1,000; Friend - \$750 to Ohio Senate Democrats)

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com)

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



## House Activity for Monday, April 11, 2016

### CALENDAR FOR COMING SESSION

**SB 133** ■ **AWARENESS MONTH** (Beagle, B.) To designate June as "Scleroderma Awareness Month."

**HB 57** ■ **MURDER SENTENCING** (Maag, R.) To change the sentence for aggravated murder.

**HB 165** ■ **HUNTING** (Green, D.) To allow an individual on active military duty, while on leave or furlough, to hunt deer or wild turkey without procuring a deer or wild turkey permit.

**HB 335** ■ **COURT JURISDICTION** (Craig, H., Grossman, C.) To specify the jurisdiction of municipal and county courts over municipal traffic ordinances and to establish requirements governing fines, fees, or other charges for traffic violations and infractions imposed by a municipal corporation that does not have the authority to establish a mayor's court.

**SCR 2** ■ **DIABETES RESEARCH** (Balderson, T., Gentile, L.) To urge the United States Congress to increase federal funding for research and development involving advanced medical technology used in the treatment of type 1 diabetes.

### SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

State Government: Remove Representative LaTourette; appoint Representative Young

17 S. High St., Suite 630  
Columbus Ohio 43215  
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com)

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



## Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, April 12

### Legislative Committees

House State Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Maag, R., 644-6023), Rm. 116, 8:30 a.m.

- SB 152**      **CONTRACTOR LABOR** (Uecker, J.) To prohibit a public authority from requiring a contractor to employ a certain percentage of individuals from the geographic area of the public authority for the construction or professional design of a public improvement. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- SB 239**      **DAY DESIGNATION** (Hughes, J.) To designate August 7 as Ohio Purple Heart Day. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 341**      **TRANSPORTATION LAWS** (Young, R., Sweeney, M.) To require the Public Utilities Commission to raise the existing statutorily designated towing and storage fees annually by the percentage increase in the consumer price index, to establish a \$35 fee for the retrieval of nonmedical personal items from a motor vehicle, to modify the civil penalties applicable to violations of the towing law, to modify the calculation of the value of an abandoned vehicle to which a towing service or storage facility seeks to take title, and to make other changes to the towing law. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)
- HB 449**      **DAY DESIGNATION** (Romanchuk, M., Amstutz, R.) To designate February 3 as "Charles Follis Day." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HCR 32**      **EDUCATION ACT** (McColley, R.) To urge the United States Congress to pass the ADA Education and Reform Act of 2015. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- House Local Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Anielski, M., 644-6041), Rm. 018, 9 a.m.
- HB 302**      **ANNEXATION** (Henne, M., Butler, J.) To provide that, beginning five years after a type-II annexation is approved, the annexed territory is subject to a fire, police, or EMS tax levy only if the levy is imposed by the subdivision that provides the fire, police, or EMS service to the territory. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)
- HB 413**      **EXECUTIVE SESSION** (Brinkman, T.) To add to the purposes for which a board of township trustees may go into executive session, to permit a township to charge for recycling services, to reduce the population threshold for a township to adopt a limited home rule form of government, to authorize a township to purchase, lease, or provide underwater rescue and recovery equipment for fire and rescue purposes, to authorize boards of township trustees to pay for group life insurance for any employee, to make other

changes to the township laws, to allow taxing units to use the proceeds of a fire, police, or emergency services tax levy to pay costs related to the service for which the tax is levied, and to expand the public infrastructure improvements townships, municipal corporations, and counties may pay for using money from their public improvement tax increment equivalent funds. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

**HB 455**      **BOARDING SCHOOL ZONE** (Patterson, J., Roegner, K.) To authorize a municipal corporation or township to establish a boarding school zone and a special speed limit within that zone. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

**HB 462**      **POLICE DISTRICT** (Hagan, C., Sprague, R.) To establish a joint police district, to modify the membership of a joint police district governing body, to expand the offense of solicitation to also apply to a person who agrees with another to engage with the other person in sexual activity for hire, to provide that the "prescription exemption" from the drug possession offenses does not apply to a person who uses more of the drug than the maximum prescribed amount per day or the maximum amount to be used within the prescription timeline or who administers or takes the drug in a manner not prescribed by the prescribing health professional, and to provide immunity from civil liability to a peace officer who administers naloxone to a person who is apparently experiencing an opioid-related overdose. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

**Senate Financial Institutions** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Hughes, J., 466-5981**), Finance Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

**HB 303**      **DEED PROGRAM** (Dever, J., McColley, R.) To create the D.O.L.L.A.R. Deed Program. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**HB 229**      **TRUST LAW** (Hambley, S., Bishoff, H.) To create the Ohio Family Trust Company Act. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**SB 175**      **TRUST COMPANY LAW** (Eklund, J.) To create the Ohio Family Trust Company Act. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

**SB 226**      **DEBT ADJUSTING** (Seitz, B.) Regarding debt adjusting. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

**House Rules & Reference** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Amstutz, R., 466-1474**), Rm. 119, 10 a.m.

**Senate State & Local Government** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Uecker, J., 466-8082**), Finance Hearing Rm., 10 a.m.

**SB 257**      **REAL PROPERTY** (Seitz, B., Skindell, M.) To create a presumption of validity of recorded real property instruments, reduce the time period for curing certain defects related to those instruments, and provide constructive notice for those instruments. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

**HB 167**      **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION** (Sweeney, M.) Regarding the term of a General Assembly member as a member of the Legislative Service Commission. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)



- SB 275**      **PHOTO MONITORING** (Patton, T.) To prohibit a local authority from deriving more than 30 per cent of the total annual revenue of the local authority from the issuance of tickets for traffic law violations based on evidence recorded by traffic law photo-monitoring devices. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HCR 26**      **MILITARY BRATPIN** (Sears, B., Dovilla, M.) To express support for the Military BratPin. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 87**      **DAY DESIGNATION** (Slesnick, S.) To designate October 7 as Moses Fleetwood Walker Day. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 31**      **STATE ROCK SONG** (Grossman, C., Stinziano, M.) To designate "Hang on Sloopy," which includes the following lyrics, as the official state rock song: Hang on Sloopy, Sloopy hang on; Sloopy lives in a very bad part of town; All the girls I know they try to put my Sloopy down; Sloopy, I don't care what your daddy do; Don't you know little girl, I'm in love with you; Sloopy, let your hair down, let it down on me; Come on Sloopy let your hair down, Girl it down on me. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- Senate Insurance** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Hottinger, J., 466-5838**), **South Hearing Rm., 10:30 a.m.**
- SB 27**      **FIREFIGHTER CANCER** (Patton, T.) To provide that a firefighter who is disabled as a result of specified types of cancer is presumed for purposes of the laws governing workers' compensation and the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund to have incurred the cancer while performing official duties as a firefighter. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- HB 95**      **DENTAL SERVICES** (DeVitis, T.) To prohibit a health insurer from establishing a fee schedule for dental providers that are not covered by any contract or participating provider agreement between the health insurer and the dental provider. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)
- HB 207**      **WORKERS COMPENSATION** (Henne, M., McColley, R.) To allow a state fund employer to have a workers' compensation claim that is likely to be subrogated by a third party paid from the surplus fund account in the state insurance fund rather than charged to the employer's experience (3rd Hearing-Opponent)
- House Session** (**Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357**), **House Chamber, 11 a.m.**  
**Senate Rules & Reference** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Faber, K., 466-7584**), **Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.**  
**Senate Agriculture** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Hite, C., 466-8150**), **North Hearing Rm., 11:15 a.m.**
- HB 178**      **WINE SALES** (Manning, N.) To establish the F-10 liquor permit to authorize certain A-2 permit holders to sell Ohio wines at farmers markets. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible amendments)
- HB 342**      **WINERY PERMITS** (Young, R.) To create the Ohio Farm Winery Permit. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**HB 37**      **ALCOHOL POSSESSION** (Duffey, M., Stinziano, M.) To allow a person to possess beer or intoxicating liquor on the premises of a market if the beer or intoxicating liquor has been purchased from a D liquor permit holder that is located in the market. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

**HB 60**      **COMPANION ANIMAL ABUSE** (Hall, D., Patmon, B.) To revise provisions and penalties regarding treatment of companion animals, to revise the definition of "companion animal" in the Offenses Relating to Domestic Animals Law, and to provide a state collaborative effort to assist veterinarians in identifying clients who may use their animals to secure opioids for abuse. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

**House Finance** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366**), **Rm. 313, 1 p.m.**

**SB 264**      **TAX HOLIDAY** (Bacon, K.) To provide for a three-day sales tax "holiday" in August 2016 during which sales of back-to-school clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use taxes. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**HB 130**      **DATA OHIO BOARD** (Hagan, C., Duffey, M.) To create the DataOhio Board, to specify requirements for posting public records online, to require the Auditor of State to adopt rules regarding a uniform accounting system for public offices, to establish an online catalog of public data at data.Ohio.gov, to establish the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program, and to make an appropriation. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

**HB 391**      **FINANCIAL LITERACY** (Terhar, L.) To require the Chancellor of Higher Education to create the SmartOhio Financial Literacy Pilot Program at the University of Cincinnati to operate for the 2016-2017 school year and to make an appropriation. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

**HB 483**      **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES** (Amstutz, R.) To modify programs administered by the Department of Developmental Disabilities and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending referral)

**House Government Accountability & Oversight** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Brown, T., 466-8104**), **Rm. 114, 1:30 p.m.**

**HB 227**      **COSMETOLOGY LAW** (Roegner, K., Reece, A.) To make changes to the Cosmetology Licensing Law. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)

**HB 183**      **STUDENT TRUSTEES** (Antani, N., Stinziano, M.) To grant student members of the boards of trustees of state universities and the Northeast Ohio Medical University voting power and the authority to attend executive sessions. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

**HB 444**      **ALCOHOL SAMPLES** (Blessing, L.) To allow certain D liquor permit holders to provide free tasting samples of beer, wine, and spirituous liquor to a person who is 21 years old or older and a paying customer of the permit holder. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

**Senate Session** (**Chr. Faber, K., 466-4900**), **Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.**

**House Commerce & Labor (Committee Record) (Chr. Young, R., 644-6074), Rm. 122, 2 p.m. or after session**

**HB 172 CRIMINAL RECORDS (Barnes, J.)** To enact the Fair and Accurate Reporting of Criminal Records Law, to require certain business entities that publish criminal record information to ensure that the information is complete and accurate, to provide a procedure by which a subject of published criminal record information may have incomplete or inaccurate information corrected or removed from the publication, and to provide remedies for the failure of a business entity to remove or correct incomplete or inaccurate information.  
(4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

**Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m. or after session**

- **1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending introduction & referral of capital appropriations bill.**

**House Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. McClain, J., 644-6265), Rm. 121, 3 p.m.**

**HB 404 SALES TAX REFUNDS (Schaffer, T.)** To allow vendors to deduct or apply for a refund of sales tax remitted for bad debts on private label credit cards used to make purchases from the vendor. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**SB 172 BULLION TAXES (Jordan, K.)** To exempt from sales and use taxes the sale or use of investment metal bullion and coins. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

**HB 466 TAX EXEMPTION (Smith, R.)** To specifically exempt digital advertising services from sales and use tax. (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)

**HB 150 HOTEL INTERMEDIARIES (Grossman, C., Scherer, G.)** To require hotel intermediaries to collect and remit applicable sales and use tax on the full amount paid for hotel lodging, to require hotel intermediaries to supply customers with itemized invoices, to specify that a hotel intermediary is presumed to have "substantial nexus" with Ohio if the intermediary arranges lodging at Ohio hotels, and to specify that hotels are not liable for the failure of a hotel intermediary to properly collect or remit applicable taxes. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

**House Judiciary (Committee Record) (Chr. Butler, J., 644-6008), Rm. 116, 3:30 p.m.**

**HB 432 ESTATE LAW (Rezabek, J.)** To revise the law governing decedent's estates by making changes in the Ohio Trust Code, the Probate Law, the Uniform Principal and Income Act, the Transfers to Minors Act, and the Uniform Simultaneous Death Act. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

**HB 339 FOREIGN LAW (Young, R.)** To prohibit courts, administrative agencies, and arbitrators from applying foreign law to the detriment of constitutional rights under the United States and Ohio constitutions. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

**HB 268 HUMAN TRAFFICKING (Hall, D., Dever, J.)** To expand the list of human trafficking-related convictions and delinquency adjudications that may be expunged, to increase the penalties for compelling prostitution and promoting

prostitution, and to authorize intervention in lieu of conviction for persons charged with committing an offense while a victim of compelling prostitution. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)

**HB 362**      **STRANGULATION** (Stinziano, M., Kunze, S.) To prohibit a person from knowingly impeding the normal breathing or circulation of another by strangulation. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

**HB 38**      **PRISON TERMS** (Patmon, B.) To create specifications that impose an additional prison term upon an offender who commits a felony offense against a disabled person or an elderly person and increase the period of commitment to the Department of Youth Services for committing an act that would be a felony offense against a disabled person or an elderly person if committed by an adult, for felony offenses that do not delineate enhanced penalties when a disabled person or an elderly person is the victim of the violation. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

**HB 451**      **PROTECTION ORDERS** (Boose, T.) To provide that an individual's statutory priority to decide whether or not to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment for the individual's relative is forfeited if the individual is the subject of a temporary protection order or civil protection order and the relative is the alleged victim or if the individual and the relative are married and the parties to a divorce, dissolution, legal separation, or annulment proceeding. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

**House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Public Safety** (Committee Record) (Chr. Johnson, T., 466-2124), Rm. 017, 3:30 p.m.

**SB 84**      **FLAG DISPLAY** (Coley, B.) To prohibit manufactured homes park operators, condominium associations, neighborhood associations, and landlords from restricting the display of Ohio flags and blue star banners, gold star banners, and other service flags, and to prohibit manufactured homes park operators and landlords from restricting the display of the United States flag. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**HB 464**      **NATIONAL GUARD SCHOLARSHIPS** (Terhar, L., Brinkman, T.) To specify that a National Guard scholarship recipient who fails to complete the recipient's term of enlistment in the National Guard due to enlistment, warrant, commission, or appointment in the United States armed forces is not liable for repayment of the scholarship. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**HB 388**      **OVI OFFENSES** (Scherer, G.) To authorize a court to grant unlimited driving privileges with an ignition interlock device to first-time OVI offenders, to expand the penalties related to ignition interlock device violations, to modify the law governing the installation and monitoring of ignition interlock devices, to extend the look back period for OVI and OVI-related offenses from six to ten years, and to modify the penalties for OVI offenses. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)

- SB 123**      **TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS (Hughes, J.)** To allow emergency personnel in public safety vehicles to report traffic law violations under certain circumstances. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)
- SCR 9**      **IRAN AGREEMENT (Uecker, J.)** To urge the Congress of the United States to disapprove the Iranian nuclear agreement known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- Sunset Review Committee (Committee Record) (Chr. Brown, T., 466-8104), South Hearing Rm., 3:30 p.m.**
- **Reviews of Education Management Information System Advisory Board, English Language Arts Academic Standards Review Committee, Mathematics Academic Standards Review Committee, Science Academic Standards Review Committee, Social Studies Academic Standards Review Committee, Straight A Program Advisory Committee, Straight A Program Governing Board, Advisory Board to Assist and Advise in the Operation of the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence, Board of Voting Machines Examiners, Workers' Compensation Board of Directors Nominating Committee, Technical Advisory Committee to Assist Director of the Ohio Coal Development Office, Supervisory Investigative Panel of the State Dental Board, Barber Board**
- House Community & Family Advancement (Committee Record) (Chr. Derickson, T., 644-5094), Rm. 114, 4 p.m.**
- HB 298**      **DRUG TESTING (Schaffer, T., Maag, R.)** To require applicants for unemployment benefits to submit to a drug test under certain circumstances, to require the director of Job & Family Services to operate an Ohio Works First drug testing pilot program and to make an appropriation. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)
- HB 286**      **MARRIAGE (Vitale, N.)** To provide that an ordained or licensed minister or religious society is not required to solemnize a marriage and a religious society is not required to allow any building or property of the religious society to be used to host a marriage ceremony if the marriage does not conform to the ordained or licensed minister's or religious society's sincerely held religious beliefs, to provide that an ordained or licensed minister or religious society is not subject to civil or criminal liability for such a denial, and to provide that the state and political subdivisions may not penalize or withhold benefits to an ordained or licensed minister or religious society for such a denial. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)
- Senate Education (Committee Record) (Chr. Lehner, P., 466-4538), Finance Hearing Rm., 4 p.m.**
- HB 299**      **AUTISM SCHOLARSHIPS (Blessing, L., Rezabek, J.)** To permit the temporary, legal, or permanent custodian of a qualified child to apply for an Autism Scholarship. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

**SB 241**      **EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS** (LaRose, F.) With regard to the employment of specified education professionals by city, exempted village, and local school districts. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

**SB 252**      **CARDIAC ARREST** (Hite, C., Patton, T.) With regard to sudden cardiac arrest in youth athletic activities. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

**Senate Energy & Natural Resources** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Balderson, T., 466-8076**), North Hearing Rm., 4 p.m. or after session

- **Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Frederick Cash, Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission; James Krimmel and John Petkovsek, Environmental Education Council; Kerry Krugh and David Kimberly, Radiation Advisory Council and Craig Porter, Reclamation Commission**

**SB 269**      **WATER SYSTEMS** (Schiavoni, J.) To require a public water system to provide notice of lead contamination not later than thirty days after becoming aware that lead contamination may effect the system's drinking water, to require the Director of Environmental Protection to provide the notice if the public water system fails to provide it, to require employees of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide continuing assistance to a public water system that fails to provide the required notice of lead contamination, and to require the Director to adopt rules that increase the monitoring frequency for lead and copper under specified circumstances. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**SB 118**      **HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE SYSTEMS** (Eklund, J.) To authorize a board of county commissioners or municipal legislative authority to elect to withdraw the county or municipal corporation from the application of any rule adopted after January 1, 2014, by the Department of Health governing the design of household sewage treatment systems. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

**SB 185**      **IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS** (Seitz, B.) To revise the law governing special improvement districts created for the purpose of developing and implementing plans for special energy improvement projects. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

### **Agency Calendar**

**State Board of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 8 a.m.**

**Air Quality Development Authority, 50 W. Broad St., Suite 1718, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.**

**Home Weatherization Assistance Program Policy Advisory Council, 77 South High Street, Room 1960, Columbus, 2 p.m.**

### **Event Planner**

**Housing Ohio 2016 Conference, Sheraton Downtown Columbus, 75 E. State St., Columbus**

**Ohio Bankers League lobby day**

**Ohio Right to Life legislative day**

Legislative leaders news conference on capital bill, Harding Senate Press Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

House Democrats news conference on bill to restrict local hiring options, PLAs (SB152), George Washington Williams Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 10:30 a.m.

State leaders news conference on efforts to boost fight against prescription drug abuse, CompDrug Inc., 1420 Fields Ave., Columbus, 11:30 a.m.

Sen. Kris Jordan (R-Ostrander) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Parlors A&B, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500; Individual attendee: \$350 to Friends of Kris Jordan)

Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP Legislative Reception, 52 East Gay St., Columbus, 5 p.m.

Bowling Green State University Statehouse Falcons reception, Capital Club, 41 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (RSVP to [batesdc@bgsu.edu](mailto:batesdc@bgsu.edu))

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Tally Ho Room, 136 East Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host \$2,500; Chair \$1,000; Sponsor \$500; Individual \$350 to Hackett for Ohio)

Sen. Larry Obhof (R-Medina) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Gold Room, 136 East Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Event Host \$2,500; Event Sponsor \$1,000; Individual \$500 to Citizens for Obhof)

Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, Chintz Room, 121 S. High Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host - \$1000; Sponsor - \$750; Friend - \$500 to Friends of Sandra Williams)

Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Brunswick) and Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Ontario) fundraiser, Little Palace, 240 S. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Hambley for House Committee and/or Romanchuk for State Rep)

Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy Township) fundraiser, Capital Club, Scarlet & Gray Room, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Ron Young)

17 S. High St., Suite 630  
Columbus Ohio 43215  
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com)

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

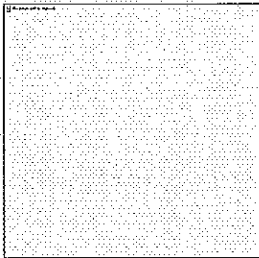
© 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.

**From:** The Buckeye Institute

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2016 11:05 AM

**To:** Rep48

**Subject:** Just Released: Ohio Leapfrogged 30 Other States in New Rich States, Poor States Ranking



## Buckeye Institute News Alert

Contact: Greg R. Lawson  
614-224-4422  
[Greg@BuckeyeInstitute.org](mailto:Greg@BuckeyeInstitute.org)

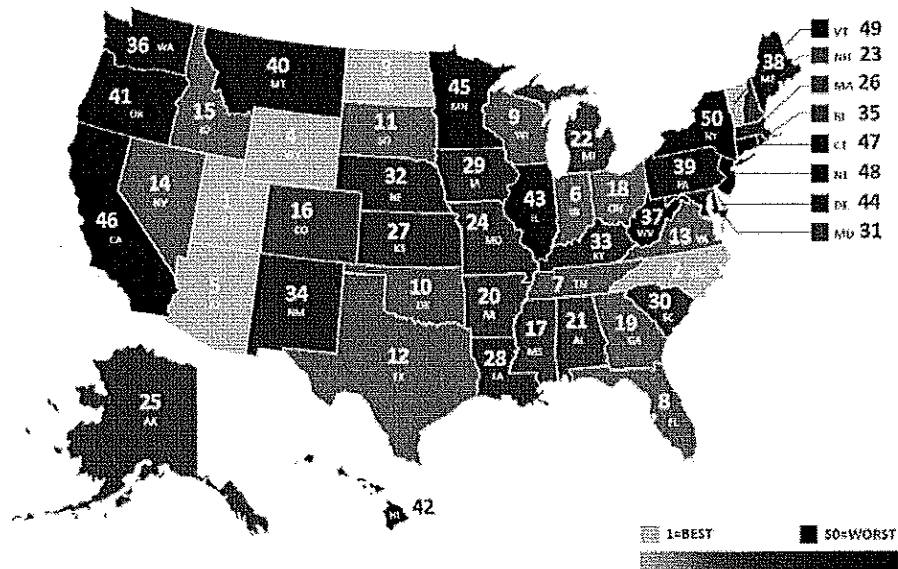
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 12, 2016

Earlier this morning economists Dr. Arthur B. Laffer, Jonathan Williams, and Stephen Moore released their 9<sup>th</sup> edition of Rich States, Poor States for the American Legislative Exchange Council.





## 2016 RICH STATES, POOR STATES ECONOMIC OUTLOOK RANKINGS



@ALEC\_States

facebook.com/alec.states

ALEC  
AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL

The rankings prove that cutting and eliminating taxes, reducing spending, and enacting labor reforms are the keys to economic prosperity. Ohio has taken steps on the first two counts, which means that the good news is that Ohio no longer has a bottom five ranking in this index, a place it had languished far too long. The bad news is that Ohio can't afford complacency and desperately needs to join our neighboring states in reforming labor laws. Wisconsin, which reformed its collective bargaining laws for public employees and adopted Right to Work, moved into the top ten on the Rich States, Poor States index. Ohio needs real labor reform in order to continue its ascent and reach its economic potential.

Thank you for supporting The Buckeye Institute's efforts to promote sound public policy in Ohio and all of the states.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,  
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:info@buckeyeinstitute.org)

**From:** Lewis, Elizabeth

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2016 11:11 AM

**To:** Lewis, Elizabeth

**Subject:** RELEASE: Treasurer Mandel Earns Ohio #1 Government Transparency Ranking in the Country for Second Year in a Row



**JOSH MANDEL**  
STATE TREASURER OF OHIO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 13, 2016

Contact: Chris

Berry

(614) 466-7665

## **Treasurer Mandel Earns Ohio #1 Government Transparency Ranking in the Country for Second Year in a Row**

*Highest U.S. PIRG Score Received Again as OhioCheckbook.com Continues to Lead the Pack and Set a New National Standard for Government Transparency*

COLUMBUS – The U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG) released their annual “Following the Money 2016” report today and Treasurer Josh Mandel earned Ohio the number one transparency ranking in the country for the second consecutive year in a row. Due to the launch of OhioCheckbook.com, Ohio again received the highest perfect score of 100 points this year – marking the second time in two years Ohio received the highest possible score in the history of the U.S. PIRG transparency rankings.

“Ohio is once again the national leader in state spending transparency. But more than just holding the highest spot, Ohio’s commitment to improving their web portal has encouraged other states to join this race to the top. This year, we have an unprecedented number of states meeting Ohio in the upper echelons of our

criteria,” said Michelle Surka, program associate with U.S. PIRG and co-author of *Following the Money*. “The Treasurer’s office has also been a leader in encouraging municipal and local transparency, continuing to expand the scope of what state spending transparency means and how it can help ordinary citizens analyze how their tax dollars are spent, from the state house in Columbus to the most local special districts.”

“I believe the people of Ohio have a right to know how their money is being spent,” said Treasurer Mandel. “By setting a new national standard for government transparency, we are empowering taxpayers across Ohio to hold public officials accountable.”

This report is the U.S. PIRG’s seventh annual evaluation of state transparency websites. Read the U.S. PIRG [press release](#), the [full report](#), and a list of the 50 state rankings at:

[USPIRG.org](http://USPIRG.org). Highlights of the U.S. PIRG Report’s references to Ohio’s transparency site include:

- Pg. 8 – “Vendors seeking to do business with the state of Ohio have reported using [OhioCheckbook.com](http://OhioCheckbook.com) as a business analytics tool, which has allowed them to determine when they can offer a state agency a product at a better value than the agency was currently receiving. In addition, an elected official from Hamilton County said that he used the site to compare the prices paid for road salt in neighboring villages to ensure that the county was getting a competitive rate.”
- Pg. 15 – “The Search Bar on Ohio’s Transparency Website Improves Accessibility by Offering Suggestions When a Visitor Begins Typing.”
- Pg. 21 – “States have started to prioritize user-friendliness and accessibility in their transparency portals. Ohio’s site still leads the pack, with intuitive “Google-style” search bars, options to instantly share interesting findings, and easily navigable “compare” features that allow users to contextualize the data they are reviewing.”
- Pg. 28 – “One important next step would be to support transparency efforts at the municipal and county level and make those data available through the state’s transparency website. Ohio is a leader in this regard, already incorporating many localities into the central transparency site.”

[OhioCheckbook.com](http://OhioCheckbook.com) was launched on December 2, 2014, marking the first time in Ohio history when citizens could actually see every expenditure in state government. Since its launch, [OhioCheckbook.com](http://OhioCheckbook.com) has received overwhelming

support from newspapers and groups across the state and, as of April 12, 2016 there have been more than 500,000 total searches on the site.

OhioCheckbook.com displays more than \$512 billion in spending over the past eight years, including more than 139 million transactions. The website includes cutting-edge features such as:

- “Google-style” contextual search capabilities, to allow users to sort by keyword, department, category or vendor;
- Fully dynamic interactive charts to drill down on state spending;
- Functionality to compare state spending year-over-year or among agencies; and,
- Capability to share charts or checks with social media networks, and direct contact for agency fiscal offices.

On April 7, 2015 Treasurer Mandel sent a letter to 18,062 local government and school officials representing 3,962 local governments throughout the state calling on them to place their checkbook level data on OhioCheckbook.com and extending an invitation to partner with his office at no cost to local governments. These local governments include cities, counties, townships, schools, library districts and other special districts.

To date, more than 640 local governments and school districts have committed to partnering with OhioCheckbook.com. Combined, these entities display on OhioCheckbook.com over 12.5 million individual transactions representing more than \$33.9 billion in local government and school district spending.

A large coalition of statewide and local government organizations have expressed support for OhioCheckbook.com and local government transparency, including:

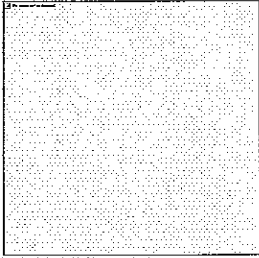
- Ohio Municipal League
- Ohio Township Association
- Ohio Association of School Business Officials
- Buckeye Association of School Administrators
- County Commissioner Association of Ohio
- County Auditor Association of Ohio
- Ohio Newspaper Association
- Ohio Society of CPAs
- Buckeye Institute
- Common Cause Ohio

For more information or to view how your money is being spent, please visit [OhioCheckbook.com](http://OhioCheckbook.com).

####

Our Mission: The mission of the Ohio Treasury is to protect, manage, and invest state money with integrity and high ethical standards while providing innovative financial services and educational resources to all Ohioans. Confidentiality Notice: This message and any response to it may constitute a public record, and therefore may be available upon request in accordance with Ohio public records law (ORC 149.43). This email message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient(s), please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message.

**From:** The Buckeye Institute  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2016 4:26 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Ohio Leads Nation Two Years in a Row in Transparency



## Buckeye Institute News Alert

Contact: Greg R. Lawson  
614-224-4422  
Greg@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 13, 2016

### **Ohio Leads Nation Two Years in a Row in Transparency Treasurer Mandel Receives Highest Score Thanks to Ohio Checkbook**

COLUMBUS, OHIO--On Wednesday, Ohio repeated as national champions in government transparency.

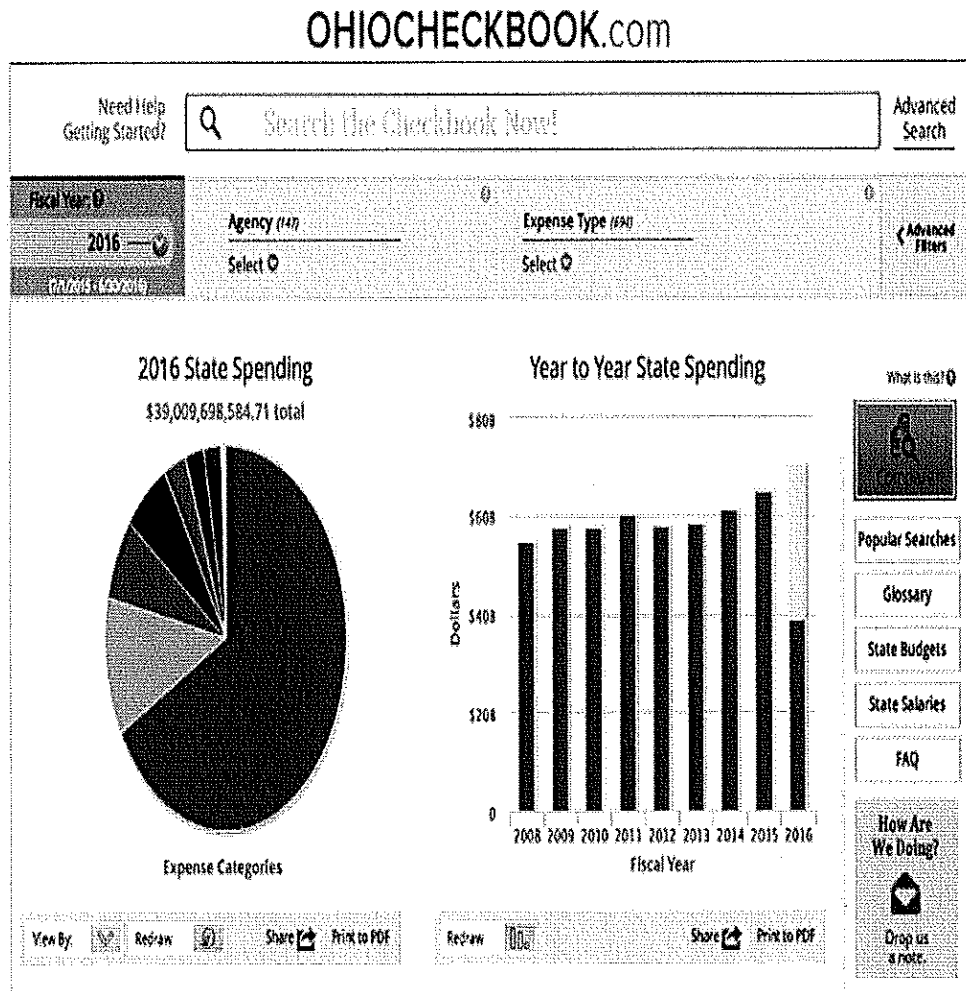
The U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) gave Ohio's Treasurer Josh Mandel the top spot in its ranking of state government transparency for the second straight year. Ohio received a perfect score thanks to the cutting edge Ohio Checkbook. The Treasurer deserves another round of applause for continuing to raise the bar on government transparency and serving as an example for the other 49 states.

The Buckeye Institute is proud to have played a role helping Treasurer Mandel pursue this important initiative. Treasurer Mandel said in his press conference today, *"The Buckeye Institute has been a terrific partner on this transparency initiative. They were pioneers in this space well before I was doing it, and continue to be today."*

Of course, it was not clear when Buckeye started our public salary databases and transparency project six years ago whether there would be appetite among



Ohioans, let alone among state officials. After nearly 13.5 million searches of The Buckeye Institute's database, we are pleased that Treasurer Mandel has not only taken up and championed this cause, but has gone even further in leading the nation by setting the gold standard for other states to emulate.



What once was a small dream of The Buckeye Institute to empower Ohio taxpayers is now a reality. Mandel's Ohio Checkbook not only looks at all state expenditures, but is also adding local governments' checkbooks to its online database in an unprecedented single, one-stop shop of such public data.

Treasurer Mandel's goal is to get ALL Ohio local governments' spending posted online and Buckeye will continue to work with his office to achieve full participation.

Given the fear mongering raised by too many local government officials over what they claim are draconian cuts by the state, local government transparency cannot come soon enough. As Buckeye's Statehouse Liaison and Policy Analyst, Greg R. Lawson, wrote this past weekend in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, "...instead of falling revenues, most local communities have seen overall local revenues rise."

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once noted that, "sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants." The Buckeye Institute stands proudly with Treasurer Mandel and all advocates of government transparency and accountability to shine the disinfecting sunlight into every corner of Ohio government spending.

# # #

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

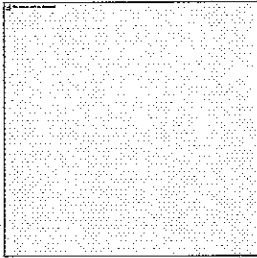
The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,  
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™\\_rep48@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:SafeUnsubscribe™_rep48@ohiohouse.gov)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:info@buckeyeinstitute.org)

**From:** The Buckeye Institute  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2016 1:17 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Project Labor Agreement Reform Will Save Taxpayers' Money



## Buckeye Institute News Alert

Contact: Greg R. Lawson  
614-224-4422  
Greg@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 14, 2016

Ohio needs many different labor reforms. Ending the mandatory use of labor agreements (PLAs) in public projects will save Ohio taxpayers money. Estimates show that projects with PLAs can increase construction costs by as much as 15% - providing Ohio with less bang for the buck. PLAs make taxpayers pay more for public projects such as roads, infrastructure, and repairs that could be done better, faster, and more efficiently.

A new policy brief based on a Buckeye Institute report explains how PLAs:

- Increase costs for taxpayers;
- Decrease competition among contractors on public projects by adding burdensome red-tape and requirements;
- Force non-union workers on PLA projects to pay for union benefits they will likely never see.

PLAs pick winners and losers. Among those losers are the millions of Ohio taxpayers, businesses, and non-union employees that continue to pay more for less.

## New Report

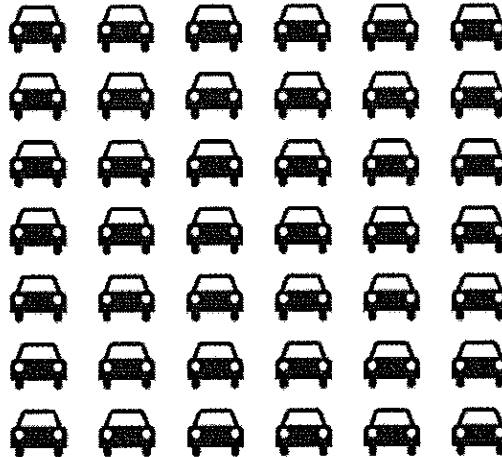
### The Hidden Cost of Project Labor Agreements

Mandatory project labor agreements (PLAs) increase construction costs by 15%. PLA reform savings in Ohio's highway construction budget could build a new

42  
MILE

four-lane highway – the distance from Zanesville to Mt. Vernon – at no expense to the taxpayers.

Source:  
<http://www.buckeyeinstitute.org/assets/documents/policyresearch/MoreHighwayControl-ProjectLaborAgreements-06-30-14-ConstructionandPLA-Costs-06-30-14.pdf> page 10  
<http://www.ohiohouse.gov/ohiohouse/finance/2014-2015/budget/2014-2015%20Budget%20Request%202014-2015%20Budget%20Request.pdf> page 3  
Based on average construction costs from American Road and Transportation Builders Association.  
<http://www.artsa.org/about/our-association/press-releases>



car = 1 mile



The Buckeye Institute

[www.BuckeyeInstitute.org](http://www.BuckeyeInstitute.org)

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,  
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™\\_rep48@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:SafeUnsubscribe™_rep48@ohiohouse.gov)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:info@buckeyeinstitute.org)

**From:** Heartland Institute: The Government Relations Team

**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2016 3:55 PM

**To:** Rep48

**Subject:** The Leaflet - ALEC Releases New 'Rich States, Poor States' Report

---

### **ALEC Releases New 'Rich States, Poor States' Report**

For the ninth year in a row, Utah earned the top ranking for economic outlook in the newest edition of the American Legislative Exchange Council's (ALEC) *Rich States, Poor States* report. The study was written by economist Arthur B. Laffer, Ph.D., Jonathan Williams, vice president for the ALEC Center for State Fiscal Reform, and Stephen Moore, a distinguished visiting fellow at The Heritage Foundation. This must-read report ranks all 50 states on 15 economic policies, including various tax, regulatory, and labor policies that give state lawmakers yearly comparisons of how policies are helping or hurting their economic outlook.

The top five states for economic outlook in the report are Arizona, North Carolina, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. The bottom five states are California, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont. The most improved states compared to the 2015 rankings are Tennessee, which moved up 10 spots, and Florida, which climbed seven spots and now sits at eighth place. Georgia was the biggest loser in this year's report; it fell 12 spots. Alaska also performed poorly compared to the 2015 report, falling 11 spots.

Over the past five years, Gov. John Kasich (R) and the General Assembly have cut income tax rates, eliminated the death tax, and constrained some spending. These reforms helped Ohio move up from having the 49th worst economic performance in the first *Rich States, Poor States* report - issued nine years ago - to being ranked 18th best in the nation in this year's report. Ohio's improvement marks the largest increase of any state over that period.

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC) supports the policies recommended in the report. "By promoting pro-growth tax and fiscal policies, we can help every American unleash their full potential," he said. "In South Carolina, we have seen these policies lead to an economic boom, with companies large and small choosing to locate and succeed in our great state. Publications such as this one serve as valuable tools to provide policymakers with a blueprint for job creation and economic success."

U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC) praised the publication, stating, "Most state legislatures across the country are focused on reducing spending, lowering taxes, and growing their economies. *Rich States, Poor States* continues to generate in-depth policy information that is critical to making decisions that will move states in a more economically sustainable direction. This publication is

an important tool for policymakers, and I find it essential in understanding what makes each state competitive in a global economy.”



### Budget & Tax

#### Research & Commentary: Maryland Considers the Flat Tax

Maryland legislators are in the midst of a major discussion on tax reform, one that includes corporate income tax reform and the possible implementation of a flat tax, which would replace the state’s current personal income tax structure, eliminating hundreds of deductions and greatly simplifying the state’s tax code.

In this *Research & Commentary*, Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans argues that instead of pursuing discriminatory taxes, states should focus on pro-liberty tax reform, which lowers rates, puts dollars back into the pockets of taxpayers, and tightens states’ budgets by creating new, reasonable limits on spending. “Sen. Serafini’s flat tax would lower rates, simplify the tax code for Maryland taxpayers, and it represents an important step in the right direction for tax reform in Maryland.” [Read more](#)

### Constitutional Reform

#### Introducing Article V 2.0: The Compact for a Balanced Budget

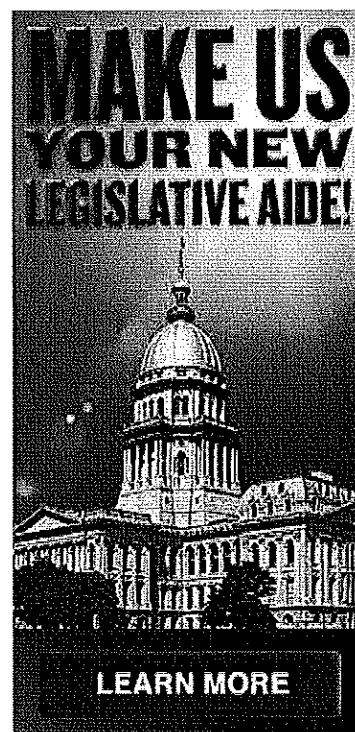
As the federal debt approaches \$18 trillion, a balanced budget amendment has emerged as one of few viable options to curb government spending. The Article V process for amending the U.S. Constitution, however, is long and tedious.

In this updated report for The Heartland Institute, originally published in July 2014, Nick Dranias, a constitutional law expert, asks the question, “[W]hat if the states could advance and ratify a powerful federal balanced budget amendment in just 12 months?” As Dranias explains, the Compact for a Balanced Budget could accomplish that task, “changing the political game almost immediately.” [Read more](#)

### Education

#### Research & Commentary: Illinois School Funding Plan

Members of the Illinois Senate introduced an amendment to a school funding bill on April 6 that would change the formula to determine how much state aid will be sent to school districts. The bill would reduce the role property taxes play in funding local school districts, placing a greater emphasis on state funding. This would entail shifting funding from more affluent school districts to poorer school districts. If passed, the bill



The March issue of *School Reform News* reports on the late January celebration of National School Choice

would cost the state \$600 million in its first year and includes a \$200 million infusion of state monies into Chicago Public Schools' debt-laden teacher pension fund. In this *Research & Commentary*, Policy Analyst Tim Benson argues, "Reforming Illinois' teacher pension system and ending administrative bloat are two of the more prominent ways to guarantee more educational funding makes its way to back into the classrooms, where it can be used where it is most needed: on the students themselves." [Read more](#)

### **Energy & Environment**

#### **Research & Commentary: Hiking Missouri's Gas Tax Will Not Solve Road Funding Woes**

Missouri legislators are now considering a substantial increase in their state's motor-fuel taxes. The tax hike, proposed by state Sen. Doug Libla (R-Poplar Bluff) recently passed in the state's Senate and is expected to receive a final vote in early April. The current proposal, if approved by voters in a statewide referendum in November, would increase the state motor-fuel tax by 5.9 cents, increasing the tax from 17 cents per gallon to 22.9 cents per gallon.

In this *Research & Commentary*, Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans wrote, "Gasoline taxes are ineffective, regressive, and have increasingly left transportation systems shortchanged. Gas taxes also disproportionately shift the burden to low-income drivers, a group that typically owns older, less fuel-efficient vehicles." Glans writes critics of the gasoline tax increase proposal say legislators "should not use the current dip in gasoline prices as an excuse to hike taxes, and they note a tax hike would raise prices on goods and services throughout the economy, not just on gasoline. These increased costs are passed on to consumers." [Read more](#)

### **Health Care**

#### **Research & Commentary: States Should Not Block the Growth of Optical Telemedicine**

Several states, including Indiana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and South Carolina, are considering new laws that would ban the use of new telemedicine technologies that would enable patients to receive a prescription for glasses or contact lenses using a vision test they administer themselves on a laptop or smartphone. Telemedicine can provide health care services to more people who need it at a lower cost, but it is currently being hampered by government regulations, not by inadequate technology or a lack of demand.

In this *Research & Commentary*, Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans argues against reforms limiting telemedicine: "Allowing

Week, when parents, children, and educators rallied at events across the nation to celebrate the progress made over the past five years in the school choice movement and to promote pro-liberty school reform and parent empowerment. National School Choice Week was commemorated with 16,400 events in all 50 states. NSCW events and rallies were held in 13,224 schools, and 20 special events were organized at state capitol buildings.

### **Budget & Tax News**

### **Environment & Climate News**

### **Health Care News**

one industry's lobby to block technology that could benefit thousands of patients is unfair and unjustifiable. The government should not be in the business of choosing winners and losers. Instead of enabling blatant cronyism, state legislators should work to encourage telemedicine by reforming licensing standards to allow physicians to treat patients across state lines and to work to streamline credentialing." [Read more](#)

#### **From Our Free-Market Friends**

**Ohio Leads Nation Two Years in a Row in Transparency**  
The U.S. Public Interest Research Group awarded Josh Mandel, Ohio's treasurer, the top spot for the second straight year in its newest ranking of state government transparency. Ohio received a perfect score in this year's report, thanks to the cutting edge [Ohio Checkbook](#) website. Mandel raised the bar for government transparency and serves as an example of what good, transparent governance ought to look like for the other 49 states. The Buckeye Institute played a role in helping Mandel pursue this important initiative. Mandel said a recent press conference, "The Buckeye Institute has been a terrific partner on this transparency initiative. They were pioneers in this space well before I was doing it and continue to be today." [Read more](#)

### **Heartland Institute**

The Heartland Institute is a 30-year-old national non-profit organization dedicated to discovering, developing, and promoting free-market solutions to economic and social problems.

### **Our Websites**

[The Heartland Institute](#)  
[Heartlander Magazine](#)  
[PolicyBot](#)  
[Somewhat Reasonable](#)  
[The Parent Trigger](#)  
[ClimateWiki](#)  
[Climate Conference](#)

This message was sent to rep48@ohiohouse.gov from:

Heartland Institute: The Government Relations Team | [nmakla@heartland.org](mailto:nmakla@heartland.org) |  
Heartland Institute | 3939 North Wilke Road | Arlington Heights, IL 60004

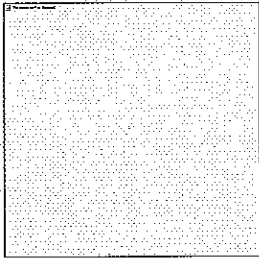
**Manage Your Subscription**

Email Marketing by

**iContact**  
TRY IT FOR FREE ▶



**From:** The Buckeye Institute  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 8:06 AM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** March Madness in the Ohio Jobs Market



## Buckeye Institute News Alert

Contact: Joe Nichols  
614-224-4422  
Joe@BuckeyeInstitute.org

April 20, 2016

### **March Madness in the Ohio Jobs Market**

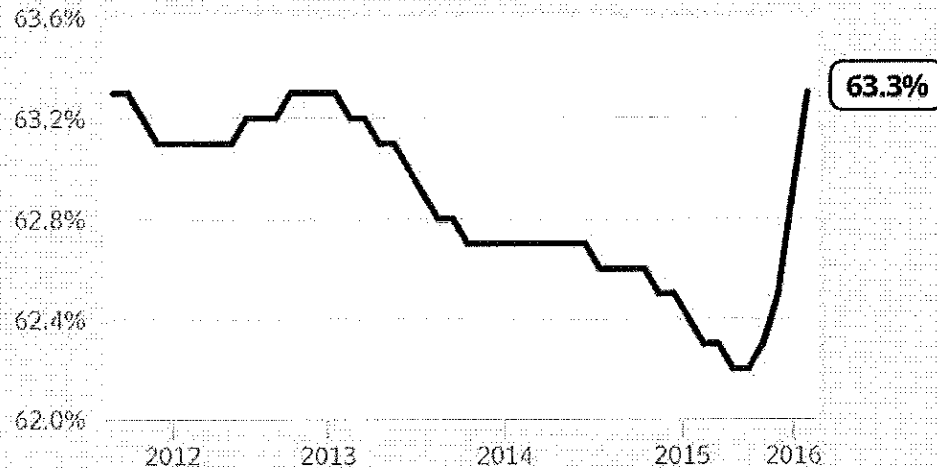
Labor force continues to gain steam through the first quarter of 2016

COLUMBUS, OHIO--Ohio's job market continues to show promise--as The Buckeye Institute's Policy Analyst Joe Nichols recently told the Dayton Daily News, "In January, we had the highest percent increase in the labor force that we've had since 1990. February topped that, and March has topped February." Nichols continued, "The labor force numbers are increasing like nothing we've seen in a long, long time. That's really encouraging news."

The labor force participation rate reflects this surge into the labor market. In just a few months, the rate has rebounded to where it was 4 years ago, although it still remains far from pre-recession levels.

## Ohio Labor Participation: March 2016

### LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE



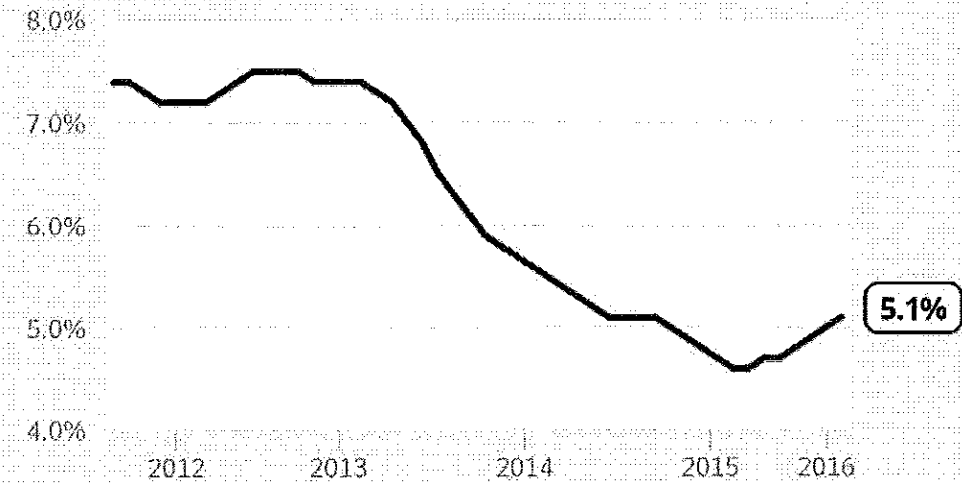
Source: Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Bureau of Labor Market Information.

THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

On the other hand, the unemployment rate has been trending slightly upward in recent months. This indicator is less alarming while labor force rates are increasing significantly--such a large surge into the jobs market means that some people will take a while to find a job and will be counted as unemployed in the meanwhile.

## Ohio Unemployment: March 2016

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



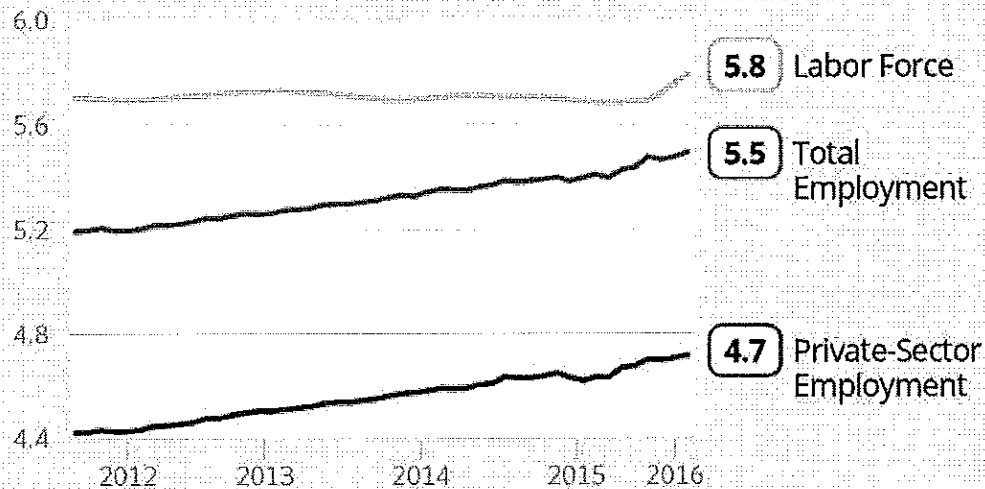
Source: Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Bureau of Labor Market Information.

THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Lastly, both private sector and total employment continue a tepid upward trend.

## Ohio Employment: March 2016

IN MILLIONS



Source: Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Bureau of Labor Market Information.

THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,  
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:info@buckeyeinstitute.org)

**From:** Zielinski, Justin  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 21, 2016 9:07 AM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** FW: Grace Commission Testimony for Tomorrow  
**Attachments:** 162104\_OhioGraceCommissionTestimony\_(Final).pdf;  
ATT00001.htm

---

**From:** Massoud, Rachel [mailto:Rachel.Massoud@ohiosenate.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 9:46 AM  
**To:** Zielinski, Justin  
**Subject:** Fwd: Grace Commission Testimony for Tomorrow

Also Greg from Buckeye Institute apparently...

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Greg Lawson <greg@buckeyeinstitute.org>  
**Date:** April 20, 2016 at 09:43:46 EDT  
**To:** "Massoud, Rachel" <Rachel.Massoud@ohiosenate.gov>  
**Subject:** Grace Commission Testimony for Tomorrow

Rachel:

Here is my testimony for tomorrow.

I was also wondering who else, if anyone, is on the agenda.

Looking forward to tomorrow.

Greg R. Lawson  
*Statehouse Liaison and Policy Analyst* 70

**The Buckeye Institute**  
88 East Broad Street, Suite 1120 | Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 224-4422 | [BuckeyeInstitute.org](http://BuckeyeInstitute.org)



**Testimony Submitted to the Ohio Grace Commission**

**April 21, 2016**

**Greg R. Lawson, Statehouse Liaison  
The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions**

Thank you Co-Chairs Schuring and Coley and members of the Ohio Grace Commission for the opportunity to discuss streamlining our state government and saving taxpayer dollars. My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the Statehouse Liaison and policy analyst at The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions, a free market think tank that believes low taxes and limited government regulations will lead to a more prosperous Ohio.

Governor Kasich and the General Assembly deserve credit for finding ways to slow government spending. Much of the current budget provides for flat funding or just a slight increase in appropriations for many state agencies. This is a positive step. Unfortunately, this means that further savings will require even tougher and more creative policy choices. But to sustain Ohio's fiscal recovery, to spur economic growth, and to be more prepared for the next economic downturn, such choices must be made.

The Buckeye Institute suggests exploring spending reductions and creative solutions in the following policy areas:

- Corporate welfare
- Regulatory boards and commissions
- Local Government Fund distributions
- Public private partnerships
- K-12 education and Medicaid

During last year's budget process, The Buckeye Institute published a new version of our "Piglet Book"<sup>1</sup> proposing cuts to government programs that would generate nearly \$2.6 billion in taxpayer savings over two years. Roughly \$570 million of those potential savings could be gained by simply allowing the state-only General Revenue Fund portions of the Ohio Department of Education to grow by 3% — well below recent trends in the consumer price index.

---

<sup>1</sup> Greg R. Lawson and Tom Lampman, "2015 Ohio Piglet Book," The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions, June 1, 2015, [http://buckeyeinstitute.org/uploads/files/2015\\_Ohio\\_Piglet\\_Book.pdf](http://buckeyeinstitute.org/uploads/files/2015_Ohio_Piglet_Book.pdf).

Additional savings can be found by reducing corporate welfare spending in areas where philanthropy and private enterprise are better suited to meet market needs. We have suggested, for example, eliminating horseracing development funds paid for by taxes on gamblers and casino revenues. This program distributes millions of dollars to racehorse breeders and racetrack owners, but the government should not be propping up the racing industry, much less redistributing profits from one gambling venue to another. Ending this corporate welfare initiative could save Ohio taxpayers over \$20 million. Similarly, we have suggested eliminating the TourismOhio program — a marketing program for Ohio's tourist industry that is funded by the sales tax. Programs like this can be privatized and paid for by the businesses they benefit. For other redistributive programs better suited to the private sector, I encourage the Commission to review the most recent version of our Piglet Book.

Beyond cutting corporate welfare programs, The Buckeye Institute recommends consolidating and eliminating a variety of regulatory boards and commissions. The General Assembly's Sunset Review Committee is already looking for specific regulatory bodies ready to be phased-out, but after the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *North Carolina Board of Dental Examiners v. Federal Trade Commission*, a systematic overhaul of Ohio's entire licensing system will likely be needed soon. In 2015, the Supreme Court held that when a controlling number of the decision-makers on a state licensing board are active participants in the occupation that the board regulates, such a board can invoke state-action immunity only if it is subject to the state's active supervision. After this ruling, many of Ohio's licensing entities may now violate anti-trust law, and reforms could and should be forthcoming.

Such reforms, of course, should be part of a broader conversation about occupational licensing and how Ohio policymakers can make it easier for people to enter the workforce. Indeed, as the Commission is aware, the General Assembly is close to eliminating the "salon manager's license" — the only license of its kind, requiring licensed cosmetologists to be separately licensed by the state in order to manage a salon. The Buckeye Institute's recent report on



occupational licensure, *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back*,<sup>2</sup> provides more on this important issue.

More savings can be found by continuing to reduce the Local Government Fund or “LGF.” Currently, the LGF will distribute slightly under \$400 million to localities throughout the state each fiscal year.<sup>3</sup> Much of this redistribution can be eliminated, with the remaining LGF reserved only for townships that do not have access to municipal income taxation or county piggyback sales taxes.

Governor Kasich and the General Assembly have received a great deal of criticism for reducing the LGF in previous budgets. Much of this criticism is unwarranted. As The Buckeye Institute has explained in a variety of publications, many of Ohio’s local governments are faring much better financially than the steady drumbeat of negative headlines would have us believe.<sup>4</sup> The LGF comprises a relatively small portion of the total distributed from Columbus to localities. Thus, cuts to the LGF distribution do not threaten the fiscal health of most of Ohio’s local governments. On the contrary, most local communities have seen overall local revenues on the rise. The Buckeye Institute reported in 2014 that Ohio’s municipalities and counties were not starving for funds, but were actually in better fiscal shape than many had predicted. Most local governments, in fact, continued to collect more tax dollars as general revenues rose. Many of these jurisdictions also had fairly large unassigned general revenue funds that afford them significant budget flexibility. Though there may be some exceptions out there, the exceptions should not dictate the rule.

Working more closely with the private sector can also open new avenues of taxpayer savings. Ohio should continue to explore ways to better leverage the skills of the private sector through public private partnerships or “PPPs.” The Ohio Department of Transportation, for example, is

---

<sup>2</sup> Tom Lampman, “Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back,” The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions, November 18, 2015, [http://buckeyeinstitute.org/uploads/files/Forbidden\\_to\\_Succeed.pdf](http://buckeyeinstitute.org/uploads/files/Forbidden_to_Succeed.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Office of Budget and Management, “Budget in Detail- HB 64, 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly As Enacted,” July 1, 2015, <http://obm.ohio.gov/Budget/operating/doc/fy-16-17/enacted/budgetindetail-hb64-en.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Greg R. Lawson, “Revenue Sharing Reform: On the Road to Ohio’s Recovery,” The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions, September 4, 2014, <http://buckeyeinstitute.org/uploads/files/BUCKEYE-revenue-sharing-reform-main-article-ALL-COLOR.pdf>.

already authorized to use PPPs in order to expedite numerous construction projects in Ohio.<sup>5</sup> Governor Kasich's recent State of the State address called for a leasing arrangement similar to PPPs for the parking garages at Ohio State. And, as The Buckeye Institute and the Reason Foundation have explained, concession agreements with private companies to manage state parks could save Ohio money and improve the park experience.<sup>6</sup>

A PPP for state park operations would transfer the responsibility of maintaining a state park to a private operator who can then raise revenue through entrance and other fees. The state would maintain ownership of all state parks and could remove a private operator for poor performance or failing to fulfill the terms of the concession agreement. Despite recent investments to reduce the backlog of state park maintenance needs and upgrades, much more remains to be done. PPPs could help reduce the backlog, lower maintenance costs, and create a more satisfying experience for visitors.

Other states already use PPP agreements for their state parks. In 2012, budget pressures prompted California to become the first state in the modern era to enter into PPPs for operating five state parks threatened with closure. These PPPs were structured as "whole-park" concession agreements under which the state retains ownership and control over the parks while paying a private operator nothing to run them.<sup>7</sup> Such a model is also commonly used for managing over half of the U.S. Forest Service's developed recreation areas.<sup>8</sup> These include campgrounds and day-use areas nationwide under whole-park concession agreements. Colorado, California, Oregon and Washington each have over 100 Forest Service recreation areas and campgrounds operated by private concessionaires. Most other western states such as Arizona, New Mexico, and Nevada have dozens of areas under private operation as well.<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> See Revised Code §§5501.70-5501.83.

<sup>6</sup> Leonard Gilroy, Harris Kenny, and Julian Morris, "Parks 2.0: Operating State Parks Through Public-Private Partnerships," The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions and The Reason Foundation, December, 2013, [http://buckeyeinstitute.org/uploads/files/Parks%202.0%20\(w%20Reason\).pdf](http://buckeyeinstitute.org/uploads/files/Parks%202.0%20(w%20Reason).pdf)

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

Finally, to further ease government growth, the General Assembly must reign in spending on the two largest components of the state budget — Medicaid and K-12 education. State policymakers have already begun to act on Medicaid with a series of provisions, including the Healthy Ohio Program waiver that will soon be sent to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for approval. The waiver's approval remains in question, but if approved the Healthy Ohio Program will save Ohio taxpayers over a billion dollars. More savings are needed, of course, and we encourage lawmakers to continue to explore how "charity care" can help Ohioans receive quality health care.<sup>10</sup> As for education, policymakers should re-evaluate school funding and the benefits derived from above-inflation rate funding increases.

We offer these policy suggestions as examples of cost reductions and creative solutions for the Commission to consider and explore. As the General Assembly looks for additional fiscal space to make Ohio even more attractive for job-creators, The Buckeye Institute will continue to advocate free market initiatives aimed at the long-term vibrancy and economic well-being of this great state.

I would be happy to answer any questions that the Commission might have.

---

<sup>10</sup> Tom Lampman, "Expanding Access to Healthcare in Ohio," The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions, November 30, 2015, [http://buckeyeinstitute.org/uploads/files/Expanding\\_Access\\_to\\_Healthcare\\_in\\_Ohio\(1\).pdf](http://buckeyeinstitute.org/uploads/files/Expanding_Access_to_Healthcare_in_Ohio(1).pdf).



**From:** Nathan Makla  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 10, 2016 9:59 AM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Research & Commentary: Ohio Medicaid Expansion Failures

Dear State Representative Ashford,

As the state of Ohio begins to address one of the fastest-growing liabilities in both state and federal budgets, I wanted to call your attention to The Heartland Institute's newest Research & Commentary on the topic. I thought you might find it both informative and useful.

I would love to assist you in any way that I can. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at [nmakla@heartland.org](mailto:nmakla@heartland.org) or 312/377-4000.

Best Regards,

Nathan Makla  
Government Relations Manager  
The Heartland Institute

CONSUMERS FOR HEALTH CARE CHOICES

## RESEARCH & COMMENTARY

THE HEARTLAND INSTITUTE 

### Ohio Medicaid Expansion Failures

Few states demonstrate the failure of Medicaid expansion better than Ohio. Gov. John Kasich's (R) expansion of Medicaid is already beginning to hemorrhage expenses the state's budget may not be able to withstand. In 2013, Kasich expanded Medicaid under the auspices of the Affordable Care Act, bypassing the wishes of the Ohio General Assembly, who struck expansion from the state budget and even passed a ban on Medicaid expansion. Opponents of Medicaid expansion note the program is stretching states' already thin budgets and has a poor track record

at providing cost-effective and efficient care for those in need.

When Kasich first pushed through expansion, he estimated the cost between 2014 and 2020 to be around \$14 billion. According to the latest Ohio Department of Medicaid data, these predictions were nowhere close to reality. Watchdog.org reported in April Kasich's Medicaid expansion costs an average of \$391 million per month, or over \$1.5 billion per quarter. If these trends continue, Ohio's Medicaid expansion will cost \$14.1 billion by August 2017 and \$27.5 billion by June 2020. The total federal cost for Ohio's expansion as of April 2014 amounts to around \$7.1 billion.

Funding Medicaid expansion has always been one of the central problems with any model accepting federal dollars is funding. Medicaid is one of the fastest-growing liabilities in both state and federal budgets. Under the ACA, the federal government has promised to cover 100 percent of the costs of newly eligible enrollees until 2017, but the matching rate declines over time, so states will eventually have to find other ways to pay for the newly eligible population. Moreover, the 100 percent match applies only to newly eligible enrollees. Those who were eligible for Medicaid before expansion and are required to enroll under Obamacare's individual mandate are subject only to the lower, regular matching rate. This means state costs for Medicaid are increasing even for those states not expanding their Medicaid programs. These costs only promise to increase; five percent of benefit costs will be paid by state taxpayers starting in 2017, this increases to 10 percent by 2020.

In a letter to *The Columbus Dispatch*, Greg Lawson of the Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions argues Ohio's Medicaid program cannot be fixed. "With 2013's Medicaid expansion, more than 650,000 able-bodied Ohioans are now enrolled in a fiscally irresponsible welfare program that has no work requirements," wrote Lawson. "Full federal funding for Medicaid is about to dry up, which means that Ohio's share of the Medicaid bill will continue to rise – and the expansion has already cost more than a billion dollars more than the projected costs. Ohio's current Medicaid program is simply unsustainable."

Peter Ferrara, a senior fellow at The Heartland Institute, warns total future costs to state governments are estimated to exceed the funds provided by the federal government, with this shortfall reaching as high as 66 percent of state expenditures. States will inevitably find the situation impossible to maintain without spending cuts, incurring massive debt, or tax hikes.

Medicaid expansion, at its core, builds on a failing model. It's a system where the federal

government dictates multiple aspects of the insurance plan and the beneficial aspects of real market competition are lost. Once expansion occurs, it will be extremely difficult to roll back. Federal law blocks states from backing out of the expansion under a provision called "Maintenance of Effort," which requires states to fund a program at the initially agreed-upon level, regardless of the amount of federal funding received. Ohio provides yet another cautionary tale for states that have not expanded Medicaid. Medicaid expansion is an expensive endeavor that research shows fails to provide better or more affordable health care.

Nothing in this *Research & Commentary* is intended to influence the passage of legislation, and it does not necessarily represent the views of The Heartland Institute. For further information on this subject, visit *Health Care News* at <http://news.heartland.org/health>, The Heartland Institute's website at <http://heartland.org>, and *PolicyBot*, Heartland's free online research database at [www.policybot.org](http://www.policybot.org).

The Heartland Institute can send an expert to your state to testify or brief your caucus; host an event in your state; or send you further information on a topic. Please don't hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance! If you have any questions or comments, contact Nathan Makla, Heartland's state government relations manager, at [nmakla@heartland.org](mailto:nmakla@heartland.org) or 312/377-4000.

**From:** Nathan Makla  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 10, 2016 9:59 AM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Research & Commentary: Ohio Medicaid Expansion Failures

Dear State Representative Schuring,

As the state of Ohio begins to address one of the fastest-growing liabilities in both state and federal budgets, I wanted to call your attention to The Heartland Institute's newest Research & Commentary on the topic. I thought you might find it both informative and useful.

I would love to assist you in any way that I can. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at [nmakla@heartland.org](mailto:nmakla@heartland.org) or 312/377-4000.

Best Regards,

Nathan Makla  
Government Relations Manager  
The Heartland Institute

CONSUMERS FOR HEALTH CARE CHOICES

## RESEARCH & COMMENTARY

THE HEARTLAND INSTITUTE 

### Ohio Medicaid Expansion Failures

Few states demonstrate the failure of Medicaid expansion better than Ohio. Gov. John Kasich's (R) expansion of Medicaid is already beginning to hemorrhage expenses the state's budget may not be able to withstand. In 2013, Kasich expanded Medicaid under the auspices of the Affordable Care Act, bypassing the wishes of the Ohio General Assembly, who struck expansion from the state budget and even passed a ban on Medicaid expansion. Opponents of Medicaid expansion note the program is stretching states' already thin budgets and has a poor track record



at providing cost-effective and efficient care for those in need.

When Kasich first pushed through expansion, he estimated the cost between 2014 and 2020 to be around \$14 billion. According to the latest Ohio Department of Medicaid data, these predictions were nowhere close to reality. Watchdog.org reported in April Kasich's Medicaid expansion costs an average of \$391 million per month, or over \$1.5 billion per quarter. If these trends continue, Ohio's Medicaid expansion will cost \$14.1 billion by August 2017 and \$27.5 billion by June 2020. The total federal cost for Ohio's expansion as of April 2014 amounts to around \$7.1 billion.

Funding Medicaid expansion has always been one of the central problems with any model accepting federal dollars is funding. Medicaid is one of the fastest-growing liabilities in both state and federal budgets. Under the ACA, the federal government has promised to cover 100 percent of the costs of newly eligible enrollees until 2017, but the matching rate declines over time, so states will eventually have to find other ways to pay for the newly eligible population. Moreover, the 100 percent match applies only to newly eligible enrollees. Those who were eligible for Medicaid before expansion and are required to enroll under Obamacare's individual mandate are subject only to the lower, regular matching rate. This means state costs for Medicaid are increasing even for those states not expanding their Medicaid programs. These costs only promise to increase; five percent of benefit costs will be paid by state taxpayers starting in 2017, this increases to 10 percent by 2020.

In a letter to *The Columbus Dispatch*, Greg Lawson of the Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions argues Ohio's Medicaid program cannot be fixed. "With 2013's Medicaid expansion, more than 650,000 able-bodied Ohioans are now enrolled in a fiscally irresponsible welfare program that has no work requirements," wrote Lawson. "Full federal funding for Medicaid is about to dry up, which means that Ohio's share of the Medicaid bill will continue to rise – and the expansion has already cost more than a billion dollars more than the projected costs. Ohio's current Medicaid program is simply unsustainable."

Peter Ferrara, a senior fellow at The Heartland Institute, warns total future costs to state governments are estimated to exceed the funds provided by the federal government, with this shortfall reaching as high as 66 percent of state expenditures. States will inevitably find the situation impossible to maintain without spending cuts, incurring massive debt, or tax hikes.

Medicaid expansion, at its core, builds on a failing model. It's a system where the federal

government dictates multiple aspects of the insurance plan and the beneficial aspects of real market competition are lost. Once expansion occurs, it will be extremely difficult to roll back. Federal law blocks states from backing out of the expansion under a provision called "Maintenance of Effort," which requires states to fund a program at the initially agreed-upon level, regardless of the amount of federal funding received. Ohio provides yet another cautionary tale for states that have not expanded Medicaid. Medicaid expansion is an expensive endeavor that research shows fails to provide better or more affordable health care.

Nothing in this *Research & Commentary* is intended to influence the passage of legislation, and it does not necessarily represent the views of The Heartland Institute. For further information on this subject, visit *Health Care News* at <http://news.heartland.org/health>, The Heartland Institute's website at <http://heartland.org>, and *PolicyBot*, Heartland's free online research database at [www.policybot.org](http://www.policybot.org).

The Heartland Institute can send an expert to your state to testify or brief your caucus; host an event in your state; or send you further information on a topic. Please don't hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance! If you have any questions or comments, contact Nathan Makla, Heartland's state government relations manager, at [nmakla@heartland.org](mailto:nmakla@heartland.org) or 312/377-4000.

**From:** Kevin Schmidt

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 11, 2016 12:32 PM

**To:** Kevin Schmidt

**Subject:** Please join on May 18th for breakfast and listen to a panel of state and national leaders discussing criminal justice reform

**Attachments:** OhioJustice.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Completed

The Coalition for Public Safety and Buckeye Institute invite you to join for a late breakfast on May 18th in Columbus, Ohio. The breakfast will include a moderated panel discussion with national and state leaders on criminal justice reform - highlighting examples of successful reforms that ensure just outcomes while cutting costs and maintaining public safety.

Details are in the invitation attached.

--

**Kevin Schmidt**

**Vice President of Government Relations**

C: 614.507.1050 | [schmidt@sppgrp.com](mailto:schmidt@sppgrp.com)

**STRATEGIC PUBLIC PARTNERS**

88 E. Broad St., Ste. 1770 | Columbus, Ohio 43215

P: 614.222.8490 | F: 614.222.8499

*This message and any files transmitted with it may contain legally privileged, confidential, or proprietary information. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you are not permitted to use, copy, or forward it, in whole or in part without the express consent of the sender. Please notify the sender of the error by reply email, disregard the foregoing messages, and delete it immediately.*

*The Coalition for Public Safety + The Buckeye Institute*

.....  
INVITE YOU TO  
.....

**Fair Sentencing & Fair Chances: Ohio**

*Join us for a late breakfast and moderated panel discussion  
with national and state leaders on criminal justice reform —  
highlighting examples of successful reforms that ensure just  
outcomes while cutting costs and maintaining public safety.*

.....

**When:** Wednesday, May 18th from 10:30am - 12:00pm

**Where:** Renaissance Hotel  
50 N 3rd St., Columbus, OH 43215

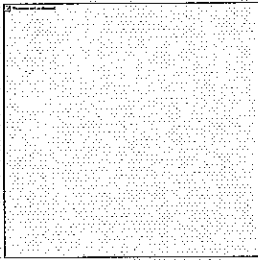
**Who:** Maryland State Senator Michael Hough, Faith and Freedom Coalition  
Jason Pye, FreedomWorks  
Michael Brickner, ACLU of Ohio  
W. David Guice, Commissioner of Div. of Adult Correction & Juvenile  
Justice, former North Carolina State Representative  
Moderated by: Daniel Dew, The Buckeye Institute

**RSVP here**

.....



**From:** The Buckeye Institute  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 12, 2016 4:31 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Join Us to Discuss Criminal Justice Reform



## **Invitation from The Buckeye Institute and Coalition for Public Safety**

### **Fair Sentencing & Fair Chances: Ohio**

Join us for a late breakfast and moderated panel discussion with national and state leaders on criminal justice reform - highlighting examples of successful reforms that ensure just outcomes while cutting costs and maintaining public safety.

**Wednesday, May 18  
10:30 am - 12:00 pm  
Renaissance Hotel  
50 N 3rd St., Columbus, OH 43215**

**State Sen. Michael Hough (MD), *Faith and Freedom Coalition***  
**Jason Pye, *FreedomWorks***  
**Michael Brickner, *ACLU of Ohio***  
**W. David Guice, *Commissioner of Div. of Adult Correction & Juvenile Justice, former North Carolina State Representative***  
**Moderated by Daniel Dew, *The Buckeye Institute***

**[Click Here to RSVP](#)**

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute,  
88 East Broad Street,  
1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#)  
[rep48@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep48@ohiohouse.gov)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update](#)  
[file](#) | [About our service provider](#)

t by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:info@buckeyeinstitute.org)

**From:** Kevin Schmidt

**Sent:** Monday, May 16, 2016 1:26 PM

**Subject:** Reminder - Join us for a late breakfast on May 18th and listen to state and national leaders discuss criminal justice reform

**Attachments:** OhioJustice.pdf

The Coalition for Public Safety and Buckeye Institute invite you to join at 10:30 am at the Renaissance Hotel for a late breakfast on May 18th in Columbus, Ohio.

The breakfast will include a moderated panel discussion with national and state leaders on criminal justice reform - highlighting examples of successful reforms that ensure just outcomes while cutting costs and maintaining public safety.

Details and RSVP options are in the attached invitation.

---

**Kevin Schmidt**

**Vice President of Government Relations**

C: 614.507.1050 | [schmidt@sppgrp.com](mailto:schmidt@sppgrp.com)

**STRATEGIC PUBLIC PARTNERS**

88 E. Broad St., Ste. 1770 | Columbus, Ohio 43215

P: 614.222.8490 | F: 614.222.8499

*This message and any files transmitted with it may contain legally privileged, confidential, or proprietary information. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you are not permitted to use, copy, or forward it, in whole or in part without the express consent of the sender. Please notify the sender of the error by reply email, disregard the foregoing messages, and delete it immediately.*

*The Coalition for Public Safety + The Buckeye Institute*

.....  
INVITE YOU TO  
.....

**Fair Sentencing & Fair Chances: Ohio**

*Join us for a late breakfast and moderated panel discussion  
with national and state leaders on criminal justice reform —  
highlighting examples of successful reforms that ensure just  
outcomes while cutting costs and maintaining public safety.*

.....

**When:** Wednesday, May 18th from 10:30am - 12:00pm

**Where:** Renaissance Hotel  
50 N 3rd St., Columbus, OH 43215

**Who:** Maryland State Senator Michael Hough, Faith and Freedom Coalition  
Jason Pye, FreedomWorks  
Michael Brickner, ACLU of Ohio  
W. David Guice, Commissioner of Div. of Adult Correction & Juvenile  
Justice, former North Carolina State Representative  
Moderated by: Daniel Dew, The Buckeye Institute

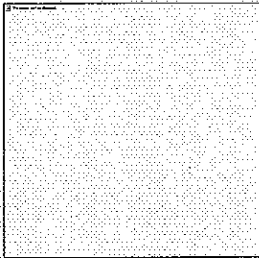
**RSVP here**

.....





**From:** The Buckeye Institute  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 17, 2016 9:07 AM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Event Reminder: Help Reform Ohio's Criminal Justice System



## **Invitation from The Buckeye Institute and Coalition for Public Safety**

### **Fair Sentencing & Fair Chances: Ohio**

It's not too late to register for our breakfast and panel discussion with national and state leaders on criminal justice reform. As Ohio policymakers consider improvements to the state's criminal justice system, your voice will be critical.

You can RSVP now to secure your spot or register at the event.

**Wednesday, May 18**  
**10:30 am - 12:00 pm**  
**Renaissance Hotel**  
**50 N 3rd St., Columbus, OH 43215**

**State Sen. Michael Hough (MD), *Faith and Freedom Coalition***  
**Jason Pye, *FreedomWorks***  
**Michael Brickner, *ACLU of Ohio***  
**W. David Guice, *Commissioner of Div. of Adult Correction & Juvenile Justice, former North Carolina State Representative***  
**Moderated by Daniel Dew, *The Buckeye Institute***

**[Click Here to RSVP](#)**

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute,  
88 East Broad Street,  
1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#)  
[rep48@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep48@ohiohouse.gov)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update](#)  
[file](#) | [About our service provider](#)  
t by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:info@buckeyeinstitute.org)

**From:** The Buckeye Institute  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 24, 2016 4:30 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Cosmetology reform passes legislature, Buckeye Institute applauds move

## **Buckeye Institute News Alert**

Contact: Jeff Reed  
Director of Communications  
The Buckeye Institute  
419-706-7879  
jeff@buckeyeinstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday, May 24, 2016

### **Buckeye Institute celebrates legislative win for cosmetologists**

COLUMBUS -- Cosmetologists aspiring to become store managers will have a clearer career path in Ohio, should a newly approved piece of legislation be signed into law by Gov. Kasich. Ohio's free-market think tank, The Buckeye Institute, applauded the General Assembly's move.

Today, the Ohio Senate concurred with minor House changes to Senate Bill 213, sponsored by Sen. Kris Jordan (R-Ostrander), ending Ohio's requirement that cosmetologists get a special state license to be promoted to store manager. The bill, which will now go to Gov. Kasich's desk, cleared the House last week 96-0 after initially passing the Senate 32-0.

"More Ohio cosmetologists will now have the opportunity to advance professionally, earn higher incomes, and take on leadership roles in their careers," Rea S. Hederman Jr.,

Buckeye's executive vice president, said. "Excessive government licensing is a barrier to many Ohioans, particularly to low- and middle-income residents."

Under current Ohio law, cosmetologists must undergo an additional 300 hours of training to obtain a government-issued salon-manager license, on top of the 1,200 training hours they already spent receiving their cosmetology license. For years, the reform has stalled because of opposition from private cosmetology schools, which sell trainings for the licenses.

"More Ohioans now have the opportunity to move up in their careers, and in life, by removing this harmful government licensing barrier," Sen. Jordan said. "This would not have been possible without our broad coalition of supporters, including The Buckeye Institute, which raised this issue among state residents and provided valuable research to policymakers on Capitol Square."

Jordan's measure was cosponsored by Sen. Charleta Tavares (D-Columbus). A companion bill was introduced in the House by Representatives by Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) and Alicia Reece (D-Cincinnati) that facilitated Senate Bill 213's eventual passage.

"Getting rid of the salon manager's license is particularly gratifying, but there are many other licenses we should be examining," Rep. Roegner, a long-time advocate against over-licensure, said.

The Buckeye Institute brought increased scrutiny to Ohio's cosmetology requirements in Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back. The study, released in November 2015 at a statehouse event with lawmakers, details over-licensed and over-regulated modest-income professions. Hederman said The Buckeye Institute will bring a similar focus to other licensing requirements.

"If Ohio is to grow its economy and create opportunity for its residents, policymakers must take a close look at other government-mandated licensing requirements," Hederman said. "Cosmetologists and other licensed professionals want to move ahead. Ohio should let them."

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,  
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [jeff@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:jeff@buckeyeinstitute.org)

**From:** The Buckeye Institute  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 26, 2016 2:32 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** The Buckeye Institute on House reforms to civil asset forfeiture

## **Buckeye Institute News Alert**

Contact: Jeff Reed  
Director of Communications  
The Buckeye Institute  
419-706-7879  
jeff@buckeyeinstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Thursday, May 26, 2016

### **House-approved property protections applauded by state think tank**

COLUMBUS -- Yesterday Ohio's House of Representatives passed reforms to civil asset forfeiture, which, under current law, allows government to take property from individuals who have not been charged with crimes. The Buckeye Institute, Ohio's free-market think tank, applauded the reforms.

House Bill 347 eliminates civil asset forfeiture in most cases involving property worth less than \$25,000, and strengthens what the government must prove for property to be forfeited. The measure, also supported by the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio, passed the House 67-24.

"This policy is a significant step forward in protecting property rights," Daniel Dew, The Buckeye Institute's Criminal Justice Fellow, said. "At the same time this reform preserves the ability of the government to seize property from those actually convicted of crimes."

The Buckeye Institute testified before the Ohio House Judiciary Committee about cases in which property was wrongly seized by the government costing innocent citizens thousands of dollars.

"Government exists to protect private property of the innocent, not to confiscate it," Robert Alt, president and CEO of The Buckeye Institute, said. "More can and should be done to protect the property rights of innocent Ohioans. Buckeye will continue to champion additional reforms to protect these rights."

House Bill 347 will next go to the Senate, where it will likely be reviewed after the November election.

# # #

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,  
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [jeff@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:jeff@buckeyeinstitute.org)

**From:** The Buckeye Institute  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 1, 2016 1:51 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Introducing the newest members of our impressive team

## **Buckeye Institute News Alert**

### **The Buckeye Institute welcomes two new staff members who will focus on economic issues and communications**

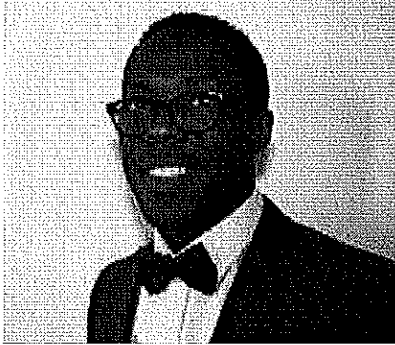
The Buckeye Institute is pleased to announce two new staff members have joined Ohio's premier free-market think tank.

Orphe Divounguy (OR-fee DEE-voon-GEE) has been named Economist in The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center, and Jeff Reed will serve as the organization's new Director of Communications.

Divounguy's research will analyze current economic issues, including public assistance programs and labor policies, and will allow Buckeye to complete "dynamic" scoring and analyses of budgets in Ohio and other states. Reed will lead the organization's state and national press relations and marketing.

"We are excited about the ideas and experience Jeff and Orphe bring to The Buckeye Institute and to Ohio," Robert Alt, president and CEO of The Buckeye Institute, said. "The expansion of our Economic Research Center will make Buckeye the go-to resource for economic analysis of legislation. And Mr. Reed's extensive background in marketing will assure that our ideas are seen around the state and across the country."





Orphe Divounguy

New York, NY, and Cato Institute in Washington, D.C.

Divounguy joins The Buckeye Institute after earning his Ph.D. from England's University of Southampton, where he also obtained his master's degree. After receiving his Ph.D., Divounguy served as a teaching and research fellow and international economic consultant. Divounguy's research focused on labor markets, migration patterns, and economic development.

Before his time in higher education, Divounguy interned at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in



Jeff Reed

Reed previously served as the Global Communications Leader for Corporate Responsibility at Cummins Inc., an Indiana-based Fortune 250 manufacturing company. At Cummins, Reed promoted the company's community engagement activities among its 60,000 global employees.

Prior to Cummins, Reed directed communications for the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, the national nonprofit started by Nobel laureate Milton Friedman. Reed also held public relations roles at the American Legislative Exchange Council in Washington, D.C., after graduating magna cum laude from Ohio University.

Orphe Divounguy can be reached at [orphe@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:orphe@buckeyeinstitute.org), and Jeff Reed can be contacted via [jeff@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:jeff@buckeyeinstitute.org).

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution -- a think tank -- whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

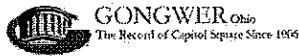
The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,  
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:info@buckeyeinstitute.org)

**From:** Gongwer News Service  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 1, 2016 6:15 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Ohio Report, Wednesday, June 1, 2016  
**Attachments:** Jun1.htm; Jun1Senate.htm; 160601dayplan.htm



## **Ohio Report for Wednesday, June 1, 2016**

Mandel Announces Launch Of Tax-Advantaged Savings, Investment Accounts For People With Disabilities

Brown Touts Columbus Transportation Future As Federal Grant Is Announced For Bus Program

Restraining Order Extended In Planned Parenthood Defund; Group Reaches Settlement Over Fetal Remains

Senate, Committees Set To Return Late September

State Plans Quicker Notification For Harmful Algal Blooms

ODP Questions Trump's Support For Veterans Following Billionaire's Contentious Press Conference

Politics Notebook: ACLU Concerned With RNC Media Restrictions; Brown Talks Pensions; Portman Airs First TV Ads...

Capitol Scene: Kasich Names Kalmbach Press Secretary; Buckeye Institute Adds Research, Communications Staff

Governor's Appointments

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

## **Activity Reports**

Senate

## **Calendars**

Day Planner

---

Please send all correspondence to [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com) This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

Copyright, 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without express permission from Gongwer News Service.



**Volume #85, Report #105 -- Wednesday, June 1, 2016**

**Mandel Announces Launch Of Tax-Advantaged Savings, Investment Accounts For People With Disabilities**

State Treasurer Josh Mandel on Wednesday announced the launch of a program enabling people living with certain disabilities to save and invest money without losing eligibility for certain public benefits programs.

Earnings from the State Treasury Achieving a Better Life Experience Accounts aren't subject to federal income tax and the money in the accounts would be exempt from state and federal means testing for programs such as Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance.

"As treasurer of Ohio I am proud to serve as administrator of STABLE Accounts," Treasurer Mandel said in a statement. "By assisting individuals and families with saving and investing, we are supporting persons with disabilities to maintain health, independence and quality of life."

Ohio is the first state to provide the accounts, which were made possible by federal legislation in 2014, according to the treasurer's office. Legislation (HB 155) signed by Gov. John Kasich last July directed the treasurer to implement the program, originally named ABLE.

The accounts are designed to help people with disabilities gain more economic opportunities without jeopardizing their eligibility for care under government programs.

"Today is a historical achievement as now ABLE accounts are a reality for all individuals with disabilities in America thanks to the hard work of so many dedicated advocates from across the US," said National Down Syndrome Society President Sara Hart Weir. "We couldn't be more proud to participate in the launch of the STABLE Accounts in Ohio."

Ohio's program is open to anyone across the country who meets eligibility requirements, though the fees are higher for people who live out-of-state. Ohio residents will pay \$2.50 per month to maintain the accounts, while residents of other states will pay \$5 per month. Ohio residents will pay an asset-based fee of between 0.19-0.34%, depending on investment options, while out-of-state residents will pay a fee between 0.45- 0.60%.

Participants can use the money from the account for qualified expenses, including education, health care, housing and transportation. Participants will be able to choose between five different investment strategies that range in risk levels, including a banking approach that offers no risk and is backed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

"Ohio, by providing these tax-advantaged savings accounts to children and adults with disabilities, has begun to pave the way for a transformative opportunity for one of our country's most disenfranchised populations," said Christopher Rodriguez, senior public policy adviser of the National Disability Institute. "The benefits of these STABLE Accounts will surely promote people with disabilities, and their families, to save for their futures and become a more significant part of the economic mainstream."

The accounts have a yearly contribution limit of \$14,000. Accounts can be set up for free on the program's website, and an initial contribution of \$50 is required.

The legislation that enabled the program passed the House and Senate unanimously last year. The bill's sponsors, Reps. Jonathan Dever (R-Cincinnati) and Margaret Condit (R-Liberty Twp.) said it would help lift people with disabilities out of poverty by allowing them to make and save more money without losing vital programs for their care. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 20, 2015)

### **Brown Touts Columbus Transportation Future As Federal Grant Is Announced For Bus Program**

Federal officials were in Columbus Wednesday to announce a \$37 million grant designed to improve public transit in a corridor of Columbus.

The grant, presented by Federal Transit Administration Acting Administrator Carolyn Flowers and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon), is designed to help fund a bus rapid transit system along the Cleveland Avenue corridor in Northeast Columbus.

Sen. Brown praised the system as a way of improving access to jobs and increasing opportunities for people who use the route. The system will cut down on the time people spend waiting for buses and riding buses, he said.

"One of the beauties of doing this right in such a progressive city like Columbus is it will make people's lives better and make their time more theirs," he said.

The bus rapid transit program, known as CMAX, will stretch from downtown to Westerville, with 32 bus stops, two new park-and-ride lots and 15 new compressed natural gas buses. It is expected to launch in January 2018.

COTA President and CEO W. Curtis Stitt praised Sen. Brown for his work to maintain the level of funding for public transit programs in the latest long-term transportation authorization bill.

"Without his steadfast support, funding for this would have been impossible," Mr. Stitt said.

After the event and ceremonial grant signing, Sen. Brown said he believed the new bus line would help Columbus win the U.S. Department of Transportation's Smart City Challenge.

The Ohio Legislature last week adopted a resolution (SCR 21~~00~~) urging the DOT to choose Columbus. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2016)

Winning the Smart City Challenge, he said would be bigger than just winning \$40 million for transportation programs, he said. Columbus groups have offered an additional \$90 million in investment if Columbus, one of seven national finalists, lands the grant this summer.

"It makes us bigger as a city and as a state nationally," Sen. Brown said. "There will be all kinds of creative people in Central Ohio parlaying that into all kinds of things."

Sen. Brown also said he didn't think the CMAX program precludes Columbus from receiving funding for possible light rail programs later on.

"We're not saying no to light rail," he said. "I think that nothing's off the table."

### **Restraining Order Extended In Planned Parenthood Defund; Group Reaches Settlement Over Fetal Remains**

Planned Parenthood scored two legal victories in recent days, including Wednesday's extension of a temporary restraining order preventing the state from defunding the organization.

The TRO extension was issued by federal Judge Michael Barrett and will remain in effect until Aug. 5. Another hearing on the matter is scheduled for Aug. 2.

Planned Parenthood cheered the ruling in a statement issued Wednesday afternoon.

"Without the action by the court today, some of Ohio's most vulnerable citizens would be left without health care options. Especially for families in underserved areas, Planned Parenthood is the only place to turn," said Iris Harvey, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio.

"Our government should be supporting programs that serve to improve the health and safety of our communities, not using Ohioans as political pawns. We want the people of Ohio to know one thing: Our doors are staying open, no matter what."

Right to Life Ohio blasted the ruling as judicial activism.

"The decision to extend the restraining order casts a light on the might and influence of Big Abortion, even in a pro-life state. Despite the will of Ohio voters, an unelected judge just halted their democratically enacted, constitutional law by another two months," spokeswoman Katherine Franklin said in a statement. "The conscience rights of all Ohioans, including pro-life Ohioans, matter. By preventing the enactment of this legislation, the judge is sending the opposite signal to half of Ohio's voters."

The defunding of the group - which would cost Planned Parenthood \$1.1 million annually in state money - was approved by lawmakers through a bill (HB 294) signed into law by Gov. John Kasich earlier this year. The cutoff was set to go into effect on May 23.

However, Judge Barrett last week initially issued a temporary restraining order through June 6, ruling the organization was likely to succeed in its lawsuit on both First Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment grounds. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 23, 2016)

In a separate case, the organization has reached a settlement with the Department of Health that will require the state to pay \$45,447 in attorney fees. Federal Judge Edmund A. Sargus Jr. will maintain jurisdiction over the case to ensure the settlement agreement is enforced.

The settlement stems from an investigation by Attorney General Mike DeWine that allegedly found that Planned Parenthood affiliates violated Ohio Administrative Code by handing over fetal remains to companies that dispose of them in landfills - a claim the group denied. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 11, 2015)

The court, however, issued a 28-day temporary restraining order against any legal action stemming from the AG's investigation into the group's abortion policies. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 15, 2015)

Soon after, Mr. DeWine announced that he would not enforce the "humane disposal" section of the Administrative Code while the Department of Health and General Assembly sought to further clarify the law. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 18, 2015)

Mr. DeWine's investigation led to a flurry of legislative activity, including a measure (HB 417) that would require the woman seeking an abortion to choose either burial or cremation. Another bill (HB 419) would require the director of the Department of Health to adopt rules requiring abortion facilities to dispose of fetal remains by burial or cremation. Similar legislation (SB 254) was introduced in and recently cleared the Senate.

### **Senate, Committees Set To Return Late September**

The Senate and its committees are set to return to Columbus in late September, according to a schedule released by the chamber on Wednesday.

Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) has set session and committee dates on September 27, 28 and 29, followed by meetings on October 4, 5 and 6.

The chamber could then return to action after the November election, with if-needed dates set for November 9 and 10.

Dates are also scheduled for November 15, 16, 22 (if needed), 29 and 30.



The chamber is set for session and committee dates on December 1, 6, 7 and 8, with if-needed sessions on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

The House last week released its schedule for the remainder of the year, with the calendar showing as many as eight session dates. None of the dates on the House schedule are before the election. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 27, 2016)

### **State Plans Quicker Notification For Harmful Algal Blooms**

State agencies have retooled their approach to public outreach efforts when it comes to harmful algal blooms in the state's recreational waterways.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the departments of Health and Natural Resources, in a joint announcement, recently outlined a new strategy to increase awareness among citizens before they enter the water.

As part of the plan, the state will be quicker in issuing public health advisories by basing those alerts solely on the levels of harmful algal bloom toxins, such as microcystin, ODH Medical Director Mary DiOrio said.

Advisories were previously declared only following documented health issues thought to be caused by algal toxins.

"As we continue to better understand harmful algal blooms and the toxins they may produce, we have eliminated the previous requirement for a probable case of an algal bloom-related human illness or a pet death before issuing an elevated recreational public health advisory," Dr. DiOrio said.

In addition to faster public warnings, the state will rely on a website to provide a roundup of ongoing advisories and other pertinent data.

"We are encouraging people to 'know before you go' by checking our BeachGuard website," Dr. DiOrio said. "BeachGuard lists any recreational public health advisories and water quality data for some toxins and E. coli bacteria for Ohio state park lake beaches and boat ramps as well as participating non-state public and private beaches."

Another key component of the new awareness effort is a revamped signage system. A white sign will be posted at all state park beaches and boat ramps, describing the appearance of algal blooms and instructing visitors to be on the lookout.

If an algal bloom is confirmed or when toxin levels are equal to or exceed the designated threshold - six parts per billion for microcystin - orange "warning" signs will be added to the white signs. These signs will state swimming and wading are not recommended for children, pregnant or nursing women, those with certain medical conditions, and pets.

A red "danger" sign will be added if and when algal toxin levels are equal to or exceed a designated threshold - 20 parts per billion for microcystin. That sign will confirm unsafe toxin levels have been detected and instruct visitors to avoid contact with the water.

The agencies are encouraging non-state public and private waters to also adopt the new strategy.

The announcement follows OEPA's recent unveiling of draft phosphorus reduction targets in Lake Erie, which could help reduce such blooms. The plan is part of a multi-state, binational agreement to lower phosphorus levels by 40% by 2025. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 26, 2016)

But Ohio Environmental Council Clean Water Director Adam Rissien has since said the plan doesn't go far enough in curbing runoff pollution from agriculture companies which can feed algae growth.

"Certainly the plan demonstrates a strong commitment to reduce toxic algae, but in order to ensure its success, further action is necessary," Mr. Rissien said. "Real progress requires policies for widespread adoption of conservation practices and proper applications of fertilizer and manure."

OEPA Director Craig Butler and the Army Corps of Engineers, meanwhile, have sparred in recent months over the potential existence of a "toxic blob" in Lake Erie. Although the OEPA says water sampling "clearly shows" the blob's existence, the Corps insists "no credible scientific evidence supports" that idea. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 6, 2016)

### **ODP Questions Trump's Support For Veterans Following Billionaire's Contentious Press Conference**

The Ohio Democratic Party's chairman labeled Donald Trump a "fraud" who is "using veterans as a prop" a day after the billionaire sought to satiate questions of whether he had fulfilled promised donations to veterans groups.

Chairman David Pepper and retired Army Capt. Paul Worley, chair of the ODP veterans' caucus, added their voices to those criticizing the GOP presumptive nominee following Mr. Trump's press conference Tuesday in Trump Tower.

During that press conference, Mr. Trump outlined how he had donated the \$5.6 million raised by a January fundraiser he organized to compete with a Fox News presidential debate.

After the fundraiser, Mr. Trump repeatedly told media and supporters he had raised more than \$6 million from the event. But media reports - including a May 24 report from the *Washington Post* - continued to show that about half that money had not been donated.

Mr. Trump responded this week, outlining how much money had been sent to which groups. Several of those checks - including a \$1 million donation from Mr. Trump that he claimed to have made previously - were written last week, the same day the billionaire was interviewed by the *Post* on the fundraising discrepancy, according to the Associated Press.

"I think over the course of (yesterday) and today we've learned the truth: that Donald Trump is a fraud whose only concern is what's in it for him," Mr. Pepper said in a media call hosted by the Democratic National Committee.

"In this case it's clear that veterans were nothing more than a prop for Donald Trump when he needed them...and he only actually paid up what he said he'd already paid when called on it later," Mr. Pepper continued. "All this shows Donald Trump is not fit to be president."

Mr. Trump attributed the delay in issuing the checks to the process of vetting the various charities. He did not explain the discrepancy between the \$5.6 million figure and his previous claims to have raised more than \$6 million. He said veterans were greatly pleased by his contribution and support.

"I have raised a tremendous amount of money for the vets," Mr. Trump said. "I have been thanked by so many veterans groups throughout the United States."

He made additional headlines Tuesday for the combative nature of his press conference, during which he blasted the media - calling one reporter "a sleaze" - and said he would continue that contentious relationship with the media if elected president.

Mr. Worley, an Adams County commissioner who served three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, questioned Mr. Trump's leadership following the candidate's early criticism of Sen. John McCain for being captured as a prisoner of war and for his conflicting statements on the permissibility of torture.

"Trump is a classic example of someone who will promise things - say he's doing things for veterans - but will turn around and not follow through on his promises," Mr. Worley said. "He is not a leader that cares about people. He only cares about himself."

During Mr. Trump's press conference, 22-year retired Marine and New Hampshire State Rep. Al Baldasaro shot back against claims Mr. Trump doesn't support veterans.

"I would never in a million years put my name on a candidate who did not from his heart look me in the eye and tell me he is concerned about veterans," Mr. Baldasaro said, urging the media to "get your heads out of your butts and focus on the real issues."

**Politics Notebook: ACLU Concerned With RNC Media Restrictions; Brown Talks Pensions; Portman Airs First TV Ads...**

On Wednesday, the ACLU of Ohio voiced concerns that potential flight restrictions and new credentialing procedures will hinder media access to the Republican National Convention.

In a letter to media outlets, ACLU Legal Director Freda Levenson said, "Increased control by the government over media access at the RNC presents serious First Amendment concerns."

Journalists planning to cover the July event in Cleveland must currently be screened and credentialed by the Secret Service. And expanded use of flight restrictions could be implemented by the Federal Aviation Administration to create no-fly zones around the event.

"The new credentialing process may reduce the ability of reporters to get access to events as they unfold," Ms. Levenson wrote. "Restrictions put in place by the FAA could completely block the ability of news agencies to obtain aerial footage of the convention, protests, and the actions of law enforcement."

A day prior, Cleveland leaders announced new security plans for the event, which is expected to draw 50,000 people. Officials didn't provide specifics - saying that doing so could compromise security - but outlined the training and organizational efforts being undertaken in advance of the event.

The same day, the RNC Host Committee announced a joint beautification effort to establish "a brighter, more welcoming experience along the main pedestrian and vehicular thoroughfares in downtown Cleveland."

**Pensions:** U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), while in Columbus with federal transportation officials to present a \$37 million grant to the Central Ohio Transit Authority (*see separate story*), criticized Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) for blocking a bill Sen. Brown sponsored to shore up pension plans for miners.

Sen. Brown has been pushing for the Senate to consider the Miners Protection Act he sponsored alongside Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) before breaking for the summer. The bill is an effort to address the shortfall in the United Mine Workers of America's 1974 pension plan, which was 94% funded before 2008 and is now severely underfunded due to the financial crisis and fewer active workers, according to Sen. Brown's office.

"One senator, the Republican leader in the Senate, has blocked the Senate from doing its job to protect these miners," Sen. Brown said.

Sen. Brown stressed the "urgent need" to address the pension shortfall in a letter to Sen. McConnell last week.

The senator also said he hoped lawmakers could work together to fix similar pension concerns faced by Teamsters.

**Cincinnati Zoo:** Rep. Denise Driehaus (D-Cincinnati) urged citizens to wait for investigations to conclude before jumping to conclusions about the recent killing of a gorilla after a 3-year-old boy entered the animal's exhibit.

A 17-year-old silverback, named Harambe, was shot and killed May 28 after the boy crawled into the exhibit and fell 15 feet into a moat separating the animals from visitors. Protestors said the gorilla appeared to be protecting the boy, although video, which does not show the entire ordeal, shows the 450-pound animals dragging the boy by the leg through the moat several times.

Protestors argue workers should have tranquilized the animal. But zoo officials contend doing so could have enraged the gorilla and that tranquilizers would take up to 10 minutes to go into effect.

In the wake of the incident, Sen. Cecil Thomas (D-Cincinnati) told the *Cincinnati Enquirer* he's looking into whether a law should be drafted to levy fines or criminal charges on one who causes the death, by their negligence, of an endangered animal.

In a statement Wednesday, Rep. Driehaus said she'd spoken "at length" with Cincinnati Zoo Director Thane Maynard and urged caution from those judging actions of zoo officials and the family involved.

"I trust the zoo officials and am confident they exercised their best professional judgment given the harrowing circumstances," Rep. Driehaus said. "Though losing Harambe is truly tragic, our community can take comfort in the fact that the zoo prevented the serious injury or death of a three-year-old child. I am thankful the zoo protected this young boy's life."

Later in the day, the *Enquirer* reported that an investigation had concluded and no charges would be filed.

**U.S. Senate Race:** U.S. Sen. Rob Portman's (R-Terrace Park) reelection campaign launched his first television ads this week.

The three ads are intended to showcase Sen. Portman's efforts to combat the prescription drug and heroin epidemic. They're part of a \$15 million ad buy stretching until November that was announced last month. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 12, 2016)

"Working together with Democrats and Republicans, I passed legislation to help break the grip of addiction," Sen. Portman said in one of the ads. "By investing in prevention, treatment, and recovery, empowering law enforcement, and stopping the over prescribing of painkillers, we can turn the tide."

NARAL Pro-Choice America, meanwhile, announced its own ad campaign targeting Sen. Portman. The campaign is aimed at pressuring Sen. Portman and other Republicans to fulfill the ongoing Supreme Court vacancy.

"NARAL is stepping up to ensure Sen. Portman does the job the people of Ohio elected him to do," NARAL Senior Vice President Sasha Bruce said.

Sen. Portman, who like many of his colleagues believes the next president should fill the post, previously said his stance is "the right thing for the country." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 9, 2016)

Former Democratic Gov. Ted Strickland, who's running in an effort to unseat Sen. Portman, landed the endorsement of the American Federation of Teachers, the group announced Wednesday.

"The future of our state depends on whether we are committed to our children," Ohio Federation of Teachers President Melissa Cropper said. "Ohio students and parents need the kind of arduous support Governor Strickland provides in making education his highest priority."

#### **Capitol Scene: Kasich Names Kalmbach Press Secretary; Buckeye Institute Adds Research, Communications Staff**

Gov. John Kasich on Wednesday named Emmalee Kalmbach as his press secretary.

Currently the communications director for Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, the Bob Jones University graduate recently served as a member of the communications team for the governor's presidential campaign.

The native of Littleton, N.H. is also the former communications director for the Massachusetts Republican Party.

Ms. Kalmbach replaces Joe Andrews, who has been serving as the governor's interim press secretary since Rob Nichols departed last summer to work on the campaign. Mr. Andrews will return to his position as communications director for the Department of Public Safety.

In another development impacting the governor's staff, Jon Keeling, a former political blogger and deputy communications director for Mr. Kasich, has been named spokesman for the Department of Job and Family Services.

**Buckeye Institute:** The Columbus-based free market think tank on Wednesday announced two new staff members with the aim of focusing on budget and labor issues.

Orphe Divounguy was named economist in the Institute's Economic Research Center, and Jeff Reed will serve as the group's communications director.

Mr. Divounguy's research will focus on current economic issues, including public assistance programs and labor policies, and will entail "dynamic" scoring and analysis of

budgets in Ohio and other states, according to the group. Mr. Reed will lead the organization's state and national press relations and marketing.

"We are excited about the ideas and experience Jeff and Orphe bring to The Buckeye Institute and to Ohio," President and CEO Robert Alt said in a statement.

"The expansion of our Economic Research Center will make Buckeye the go-to resource for economic analysis of legislation. And Mr. Reed's extensive background in marketing will assure that our ideas are seen around the state and across the country."

Mr. Divounguy holds degrees from England's University of Southampton, and after receiving his Ph.D., he served as a teaching and research fellow and international economic consultant.

Mr. Reed previously served as the global communications leader for Corporate Responsibility at Indiana-based Cummins Inc. The Ohio University graduate previously held posts with the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice and the American Legislative Exchange Council in Washington, D.C.

### **Governor's Appointments**

**Community Schools Dropout Recovery Study Committee:** Alex Johnson of Solon for a term beginning May 31, 2016 and continuing at the pleasure of the governor.

**Cleveland State University Board of Trustees:** Todd C. Davidson of Cleveland for a term beginning May 31, 2016 and ending May 1, 2025.

**Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas:** Thomas D. Heekin Jr. of Cincinnati will assume office on June 6, 2016 and must run in the November 2016 general election to retain the seat for the full term commencing January 4, 2017. Mr. Heekin holds degrees from the University of Colorado and University of Cincinnati. He has been a criminal litigator for Heekin & Heekin since 2002.

**State Employment Relations Board:** J. Richard Lumpe of Columbus for a term beginning June 1, 2016 and ending October 6, 2021.

### **Supplemental Agency Calendar**

#### **Thursday, June 2**

Elections Commission, Rm. East B., 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

#### **Monday, June 6**

STEM Designation Committee, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 1 p.m.

#### **Wednesday, June 8**

Consumers' Counsel Governing Board, Suite 1800, 10 W. Broad St., Columbus, 9 a.m.

**Thursday, June 16**

**Expositions Commission, Voinovich Center, 717 E. 17th Ave., Columbus, 11 a.m.**

**Supplemental Event Planner**

**Thursday, June 30**

**20th Annual Rockin' Fiscal Eve, Miller's Ale House, 1201 Olentangy River Rd., Columbus, 5 p.m.,**  
(All-invited celebration  
of the end of MBRs in FY 2016 with MBRs (Massive Beer Rounds). Parking adjacent to building.)

**17 S. High St., Suite 630**

**Columbus Ohio 43215**

**Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com)**

**Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley,  
Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers**

**Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.**

**© 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without  
the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101  
et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic  
mail.**





## Senate Activity for Wednesday, June 1, 2016

### INTRODUCED

**SB 337** ■ **ROAD NAMING (Hughes, J.)** To designate a portion of Interstate Route 270 in Franklin County as the "Hilliard Patrol Officer Sean Johnson Memorial Highway." Am. 5534.44

17 S. High St., Suite 630  
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com)

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



## **Daily Activity Planner for Thursday, June 2**

### **Legislative Committees**

No legislative committees scheduled.

### **Agency Calendar**

Construction Industry Licensing Board, 6606 Tussing Road, OCILB Conference Room, Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m. (HVAC Section)

Elections Commission, Rm. East B., 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

State Employment Relations Board, 65 E. State St., 12th Fl., Columbus, 10 a.m.

### **Event Planner**

Ohio Department of Taxation public hearing on proposed current agricultural use values, 22rd Floor, 30 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 10 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com)

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

© 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.

**From:** Gongwer News Service  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 1, 2016 6:17 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Ohio Report, Wednesday, June 1, 2016  
**Attachments:** Jun1.htm; Jun1Senate.htm; 160601dayplan.htm



## **Ohio Report for Wednesday, June 1, 2016**

Mandel Announces Launch Of Tax-Advantaged Savings, Investment Accounts For People With Disabilities

Brown Touts Columbus Transportation Future As Federal Grant Is Announced For Bus Program

Restraining Order Extended In Planned Parenthood Defund; Group Reaches Settlement Over Fetal Remains

Senate, Committees Set To Return Late September

State Plans Quicker Notification For Harmful Algal Blooms

ODP Questions Trump's Support For Veterans Following Billionaire's Contentious Press Conference

Politics Notebook: ACLU Concerned With RNC Media Restrictions; Brown Talks Pensions; Portman Airs First TV Ads...

Capitol Scene: Kasich Names Kalmbach Press Secretary; Buckeye Institute Adds Research, Communications Staff

Governor's Appointments

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

## **Activity Reports**

Senate

## **Calendars**

Day Planner

---

Please send all correspondence to [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com) This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

Copyright, 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without express permission from Gongwer News Service.



**Volume #85, Report #105 -- Wednesday, June 1, 2016**

**Mandel Announces Launch Of Tax-Advantaged Savings, Investment Accounts For People With Disabilities**

State Treasurer Josh Mandel on Wednesday announced the launch of a program enabling people living with certain disabilities to save and invest money without losing eligibility for certain public benefits programs.

Earnings from the State Treasury Achieving a Better Life Experience Accounts aren't subject to federal income tax and the money in the accounts would be exempt from state and federal means testing for programs such as Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance.

"As treasurer of Ohio I am proud to serve as administrator of STABLE Accounts," Treasurer Mandel said in a statement. "By assisting individuals and families with saving and investing, we are supporting persons with disabilities to maintain health, independence and quality of life."

Ohio is the first state to provide the accounts, which were made possible by federal legislation in 2014, according to the treasurer's office. Legislation (HB 155) signed by Gov. John Kasich last July directed the treasurer to implement the program, originally named ABLE.

The accounts are designed to help people with disabilities gain more economic opportunities without jeopardizing their eligibility for care under government programs.

"Today is a historical achievement as now ABLE accounts are a reality for all individuals with disabilities in America thanks to the hard work of so many dedicated advocates from across the US," said National Down Syndrome Society President Sara Hart Weir. "We couldn't be more proud to participate in the launch of the STABLE Accounts in Ohio."

Ohio's program is open to anyone across the country who meets eligibility requirements, though the fees are higher for people who live out-of-state. Ohio residents will pay \$2.50 per month to maintain the accounts, while residents of other states will pay \$5 per month. Ohio residents will pay an asset-based fee of between 0.19-0.34%, depending on investment options, while out-of-state residents will pay a fee between 0.45- 0.60%.

Participants can use the money from the account for qualified expenses, including education, health care, housing and transportation. Participants will be able to choose between five different investment strategies that range in risk levels, including a banking approach that offers no risk and is backed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

"Ohio, by providing these tax-advantaged savings accounts to children and adults with disabilities, has begun to pave the way for a transformative opportunity for one of our country's most disenfranchised populations," said Christopher Rodriguez, senior public policy adviser of the National Disability Institute. "The benefits of these STABLE Accounts will surely promote people with disabilities, and their families, to save for their futures and become a more significant part of the economic mainstream."

The accounts have a yearly contribution limit of \$14,000. Accounts can be set up for free on the program's website, and an initial contribution of \$50 is required.

The legislation that enabled the program passed the House and Senate unanimously last year. The bill's sponsors, Reps. Jonathan Dever (R-Cincinnati) and Margaret Condit (R-Liberty Twp.) said it would help lift people with disabilities out of poverty by allowing them to make and save more money without losing vital programs for their care. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 20, 2015)

### **Brown Touts Columbus Transportation Future As Federal Grant Is Announced For Bus Program**

Federal officials were in Columbus Wednesday to announce a \$37 million grant designed to improve public transit in a corridor of Columbus.

The grant, presented by Federal Transit Administration Acting Administrator Carolyn Flowers and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon), is designed to help fund a bus rapid transit system along the Cleveland Avenue corridor in Northeast Columbus.

Sen. Brown praised the system as a way of improving access to jobs and increasing opportunities for people who use the route. The system will cut down on the time people spend waiting for buses and riding buses, he said.

"One of the beauties of doing this right in such a progressive city like Columbus is it will make people's lives better and make their time more theirs," he said.

The bus rapid transit program, known as CMAX, will stretch from downtown to Westerville, with 32 bus stops, two new park-and-ride lots and 15 new compressed natural gas buses. It is expected to launch in January 2018.

COTA President and CEO W. Curtis Stitt praised Sen. Brown for his work to maintain the level of funding for public transit programs in the latest long-term transportation authorization bill.

"Without his steadfast support, funding for this would have been impossible," Mr. Stitt said.

After the event and ceremonial grant signing, Sen. Brown said he believed the new bus line would help Columbus win the U.S. Department of Transportation's Smart City Challenge.

The Ohio Legislature last week adopted a resolution (SCR 21~~00~~) urging the DOT to choose Columbus. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2016)

Winning the Smart City Challenge, he said would be bigger than just winning \$40 million for transportation programs, he said. Columbus groups have offered an additional \$90 million in investment if Columbus, one of seven national finalists, lands the grant this summer.

"It makes us bigger as a city and as a state nationally," Sen. Brown said. "There will be all kinds of creative people in Central Ohio parlaying that into all kinds of things."

Sen. Brown also said he didn't think the CMAX program precludes Columbus from receiving funding for possible light rail programs later on.

"We're not saying no to light rail," he said. "I think that nothing's off the table."

### **Restraining Order Extended In Planned Parenthood Defund; Group Reaches Settlement Over Fetal Remains**

Planned Parenthood scored two legal victories in recent days, including Wednesday's extension of a temporary restraining order preventing the state from defunding the organization.

The TRO extension was issued by federal Judge Michael Barrett and will remain in effect until Aug. 5. Another hearing on the matter is scheduled for Aug. 2.

Planned Parenthood cheered the ruling in a statement issued Wednesday afternoon.

"Without the action by the court today, some of Ohio's most vulnerable citizens would be left without health care options. Especially for families in underserved areas, Planned Parenthood is the only place to turn," said Iris Harvey, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio.

"Our government should be supporting programs that serve to improve the health and safety of our communities, not using Ohioans as political pawns. We want the people of Ohio to know one thing: Our doors are staying open, no matter what."

Right to Life Ohio blasted the ruling as judicial activism.

"The decision to extend the restraining order casts a light on the might and influence of Big Abortion, even in a pro-life state. Despite the will of Ohio voters, an unelected judge just halted their democratically enacted, constitutional law by another two months," spokeswoman Katherine Franklin said in a statement. "The conscience rights of all Ohioans, including pro-life Ohioans, matter. By preventing the enactment of this legislation, the judge is sending the opposite signal to half of Ohio's voters."

The defunding of the group - which would cost Planned Parenthood \$1.1 million annually in state money - was approved by lawmakers through a bill (HB 294) signed into law by Gov. John Kasich earlier this year. The cutoff was set to go into effect on May 23.

However, Judge Barrett last week initially issued a temporary restraining order through June 6, ruling the organization was likely to succeed in its lawsuit on both First Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment grounds. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 23, 2016)

In a separate case, the organization has reached a settlement with the Department of Health that will require the state to pay \$45,447 in attorney fees. Federal Judge Edmund A. Sargus Jr. will maintain jurisdiction over the case to ensure the settlement agreement is enforced.

The settlement stems from an investigation by Attorney General Mike DeWine that allegedly found that Planned Parenthood affiliates violated Ohio Administrative Code by handing over fetal remains to companies that dispose of them in landfills - a claim the group denied. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 11, 2015)

The court, however, issued a 28-day temporary restraining order against any legal action stemming from the AG's investigation into the group's abortion policies. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 15, 2015)

Soon after, Mr. DeWine announced that he would not enforce the "humane disposal" section of the Administrative Code while the Department of Health and General Assembly sought to further clarify the law. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 18, 2015)

Mr. DeWine's investigation led to a flurry of legislative activity, including a measure (HB 417) that would require the woman seeking an abortion to choose either burial or cremation. Another bill (HB 419) would require the director of the Department of Health to adopt rules requiring abortion facilities to dispose of fetal remains by burial or cremation. Similar legislation (SB 254) was introduced in and recently cleared the Senate.

### **Senate, Committees Set To Return Late September**

The Senate and its committees are set to return to Columbus in late September, according to a schedule released by the chamber on Wednesday.

Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) has set session and committee dates on September 27, 28 and 29, followed by meetings on October 4, 5 and 6.

The chamber could then return to action after the November election, with if-needed dates set for November 9 and 10.

Dates are also scheduled for November 15, 16, 22 (if needed), 29 and 30.



The chamber is set for session and committee dates on December 1, 6, 7 and 8, with if-needed sessions on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

The House last week released its schedule for the remainder of the year, with the calendar showing as many as eight session dates. None of the dates on the House schedule are before the election. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 27, 2016)

### **State Plans Quicker Notification For Harmful Algal Blooms**

State agencies have retooled their approach to public outreach efforts when it comes to harmful algal blooms in the state's recreational waterways.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the departments of Health and Natural Resources, in a joint announcement, recently outlined a new strategy to increase awareness among citizens before they enter the water.

As part of the plan, the state will be quicker in issuing public health advisories by basing those alerts solely on the levels of harmful algal bloom toxins, such as microcystin, ODH Medical Director Mary DiOrio said.

Advisories were previously declared only following documented health issues thought to be caused by algal toxins.

"As we continue to better understand harmful algal blooms and the toxins they may produce, we have eliminated the previous requirement for a probable case of an algal bloom-related human illness or a pet death before issuing an elevated recreational public health advisory," Dr. DiOrio said.

In addition to faster public warnings, the state will rely on a website to provide a roundup of ongoing advisories and other pertinent data.

"We are encouraging people to 'know before you go' by checking our BeachGuard website," Dr. DiOrio said. "BeachGuard lists any recreational public health advisories and water quality data for some toxins and E. coli bacteria for Ohio state park lake beaches and boat ramps as well as participating non-state public and private beaches."

Another key component of the new awareness effort is a revamped signage system. A white sign will be posted at all state park beaches and boat ramps, describing the appearance of algal blooms and instructing visitors to be on the lookout.

If an algal bloom is confirmed or when toxin levels are equal to or exceed the designated threshold - six parts per billion for microcystin - orange "warning" signs will be added to the white signs. These signs will state swimming and wading are not recommended for children, pregnant or nursing women, those with certain medical conditions, and pets.

A red "danger" sign will be added if and when algal toxin levels are equal to or exceed a designated threshold - 20 parts per billion for microcystin. That sign will confirm unsafe toxin levels have been detected and instruct visitors to avoid contact with the water.

The agencies are encouraging non-state public and private waters to also adopt the new strategy.

The announcement follows OEPA's recent unveiling of draft phosphorus reduction targets in Lake Erie, which could help reduce such blooms. The plan is part of a multi-state, binational agreement to lower phosphorus levels by 40% by 2025. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 26, 2016)

But Ohio Environmental Council Clean Water Director Adam Rissien has since said the plan doesn't go far enough in curbing runoff pollution from agriculture companies which can feed algae growth.

"Certainly the plan demonstrates a strong commitment to reduce toxic algae, but in order to ensure its success, further action is necessary," Mr. Rissien said. "Real progress requires policies for widespread adoption of conservation practices and proper applications of fertilizer and manure."

OEPA Director Craig Butler and the Army Corps of Engineers, meanwhile, have sparred in recent months over the potential existence of a "toxic blob" in Lake Erie. Although the OEPA says water sampling "clearly shows" the blob's existence, the Corps insists "no credible scientific evidence supports" that idea. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 6, 2016)

### **ODP Questions Trump's Support For Veterans Following Billionaire's Contentious Press Conference**

The Ohio Democratic Party's chairman labeled Donald Trump a "fraud" who is "using veterans as a prop" a day after the billionaire sought to satiate questions of whether he had fulfilled promised donations to veterans groups.

Chairman David Pepper and retired Army Capt. Paul Worley, chair of the ODP veterans' caucus, added their voices to those criticizing the GOP presumptive nominee following Mr. Trump's press conference Tuesday in Trump Tower.

During that press conference, Mr. Trump outlined how he had donated the \$5.6 million raised by a January fundraiser he organized to compete with a Fox News presidential debate.

After the fundraiser, Mr. Trump repeatedly told media and supporters he had raised more than \$6 million from the event. But media reports - including a May 24 report from the *Washington Post* - continued to show that about half that money had not been donated.

Mr. Trump responded this week, outlining how much money had been sent to which groups. Several of those checks - including a \$1 million donation from Mr. Trump that he claimed to have made previously - were written last week, the same day the billionaire was interviewed by the *Post* on the fundraising discrepancy, according to the Associated Press.

"I think over the course of (yesterday) and today we've learned the truth: that Donald Trump is a fraud whose only concern is what's in it for him," Mr. Pepper said in a media call hosted by the Democratic National Committee.

"In this case it's clear that veterans were nothing more than a prop for Donald Trump when he needed them...and he only actually paid up what he said he'd already paid when called on it later," Mr. Pepper continued. "All this shows Donald Trump is not fit to be president."

Mr. Trump attributed the delay in issuing the checks to the process of vetting the various charities. He did not explain the discrepancy between the \$5.6 million figure and his previous claims to have raised more than \$6 million. He said veterans were greatly pleased by his contribution and support.

"I have raised a tremendous amount of money for the vets," Mr. Trump said. "I have been thanked by so many veterans groups throughout the United States."

He made additional headlines Tuesday for the combative nature of his press conference, during which he blasted the media - calling one reporter "a sleaze" - and said he would continue that contentious relationship with the media if elected president.

Mr. Worley, an Adams County commissioner who served three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, questioned Mr. Trump's leadership following the candidate's early criticism of Sen. John McCain for being captured as a prisoner of war and for his conflicting statements on the permissibility of torture.

"Trump is a classic example of someone who will promise things - say he's doing things for veterans - but will turn around and not follow through on his promises," Mr. Worley said. "He is not a leader that cares about people. He only cares about himself."

During Mr. Trump's press conference, 22-year retired Marine and New Hampshire State Rep. Al Baldasaro shot back against claims Mr. Trump doesn't support veterans.

"I would never in a million years put my name on a candidate who did not from his heart look me in the eye and tell me he is concerned about veterans," Mr. Baldasaro said, urging the media to "get your heads out of your butts and focus on the real issues."

**Politics Notebook: ACLU Concerned With RNC Media Restrictions; Brown Talks Pensions; Portman Airs First TV Ads...**

On Wednesday, the ACLU of Ohio voiced concerns that potential flight restrictions and new credentialing procedures will hinder media access to the Republican National Convention.

In a letter to media outlets, ACLU Legal Director Freda Levenson said, "Increased control by the government over media access at the RNC presents serious First Amendment concerns."

Journalists planning to cover the July event in Cleveland must currently be screened and credentialed by the Secret Service. And expanded use of flight restrictions could be implemented by the Federal Aviation Administration to create no-fly zones around the event.

"The new credentialing process may reduce the ability of reporters to get access to events as they unfold," Ms. Levenson wrote. "Restrictions put in place by the FAA could completely block the ability of news agencies to obtain aerial footage of the convention, protests, and the actions of law enforcement."

A day prior, Cleveland leaders announced new security plans for the event, which is expected to draw 50,000 people. Officials didn't provide specifics - saying that doing so could compromise security - but outlined the training and organizational efforts being undertaken in advance of the event.

The same day, the RNC Host Committee announced a joint beautification effort to establish "a brighter, more welcoming experience along the main pedestrian and vehicular thoroughfares in downtown Cleveland."

**Pensions:** U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon), while in Columbus with federal transportation officials to present a \$37 million grant to the Central Ohio Transit Authority (*see separate story*), criticized Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) for blocking a bill Sen. Brown sponsored to shore up pension plans for miners.

Sen. Brown has been pushing for the Senate to consider the Miners Protection Act he sponsored alongside Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) before breaking for the summer. The bill is an effort to address the shortfall in the United Mine Workers of America's 1974 pension plan, which was 94% funded before 2008 and is now severely underfunded due to the financial crisis and fewer active workers, according to Sen. Brown's office.

"One senator, the Republican leader in the Senate, has blocked the Senate from doing its job to protect these miners," Sen. Brown said.

Sen. Brown stressed the "urgent need" to address the pension shortfall in a letter to Sen. McConnell last week.

The senator also said he hoped lawmakers could work together to fix similar pension concerns faced by Teamsters.

**Cincinnati Zoo:** Rep. Denise Driehaus (D-Cincinnati) urged citizens to wait for investigations to conclude before jumping to conclusions about the recent killing of a gorilla after a 3-year-old boy entered the animal's exhibit.

A 17-year-old silverback, named Harambe, was shot and killed May 28 after the boy crawled into the exhibit and fell 15 feet into a moat separating the animals from visitors. Protestors said the gorilla appeared to be protecting the boy, although video, which does not show the entire ordeal, shows the 450-pound animals dragging the boy by the leg through the moat several times.

Protestors argue workers should have tranquilized the animal. But zoo officials contend doing so could have enraged the gorilla and that tranquilizers would take up to 10 minutes to go into effect.

In the wake of the incident, Sen. Cecil Thomas (D-Cincinnati) told the *Cincinnati Enquirer* he's looking into whether a law should be drafted to levy fines or criminal charges on one who causes the death, by their negligence, of an endangered animal.

In a statement Wednesday, Rep. Driehaus said she'd spoken "at length" with Cincinnati Zoo Director Thane Maynard and urged caution from those judging actions of zoo officials and the family involved.

"I trust the zoo officials and am confident they exercised their best professional judgment given the harrowing circumstances," Rep. Driehaus said. "Though losing Harambe is truly tragic, our community can take comfort in the fact that the zoo prevented the serious injury or death of a three-year-old child. I am thankful the zoo protected this young boy's life."

Later in the day, the *Enquirer* reported that an investigation had concluded and no charges would be filed.

**U.S. Senate Race:** U.S. Sen. Rob Portman's (R-Terrace Park) reelection campaign launched his first television ads this week.

The three ads are intended to showcase Sen. Portman's efforts to combat the prescription drug and heroin epidemic. They're part of a \$15 million ad buy stretching until November that was announced last month. (See *Gongwer Ohio Report*, May 12, 2016)

"Working together with Democrats and Republicans, I passed legislation to help break the grip of addiction," Sen. Portman said in one of the ads. "By investing in prevention, treatment, and recovery, empowering law enforcement, and stopping the over prescribing of painkillers, we can turn the tide."

NARAL Pro-Choice America, meanwhile, announced its own ad campaign targeting Sen. Portman. The campaign is aimed at pressuring Sen. Portman and other Republicans to fulfill the ongoing Supreme Court vacancy.

"NARAL is stepping up to ensure Sen. Portman does the job the people of Ohio elected him to do," NARAL Senior Vice President Sasha Bruce said.

Sen. Portman, who like many of his colleagues believes the next president should fill the post, previously said his stance is "the right thing for the country." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 9, 2016)

Former Democratic Gov. Ted Strickland, who's running in an effort to unseat Sen. Portman, landed the endorsement of the American Federation of Teachers, the group announced Wednesday.

"The future of our state depends on whether we are committed to our children," Ohio Federation of Teachers President Melissa Cropper said. "Ohio students and parents need the kind of arduous support Governor Strickland provides in making education his highest priority."

#### **Capitol Scene: Kasich Names Kalmbach Press Secretary; Buckeye Institute Adds Research, Communications Staff**

Gov. John Kasich on Wednesday named Emmalee Kalmbach as his press secretary.

Currently the communications director for Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, the Bob Jones University graduate recently served as a member of the communications team for the governor's presidential campaign.

The native of Littleton, N.H. is also the former communications director for the Massachusetts Republican Party.

Ms. Kalmbach replaces Joe Andrews, who has been serving as the governor's interim press secretary since Rob Nichols departed last summer to work on the campaign. Mr. Andrews will return to his position as communications director for the Department of Public Safety.

In another development impacting the governor's staff, Jon Keeling, a former political blogger and deputy communications director for Mr. Kasich, has been named spokesman for the Department of Job and Family Services.

**Buckeye Institute:** The Columbus-based free market think tank on Wednesday announced two new staff members with the aim of focusing on budget and labor issues.

Orphe Divounguy was named economist in the Institute's Economic Research Center, and Jeff Reed will serve as the group's communications director.

Mr. Divounguys research will focus on current economic issues, including public assistance programs and labor policies, and will entail "dynamic" scoring and analysis of

budgets in Ohio and other states, according to the group. Mr. Reed will lead the organization's state and national press relations and marketing.

"We are excited about the ideas and experience Jeff and Orphe bring to The Buckeye Institute and to Ohio," President and CEO Robert Alt said in a statement.

"The expansion of our Economic Research Center will make Buckeye the go-to resource for economic analysis of legislation. And Mr. Reed's extensive background in marketing will assure that our ideas are seen around the state and across the country."

Mr. Divounguy holds degrees from England's University of Southampton, and after receiving his Ph.D., he served as a teaching and research fellow and international economic consultant.

Mr. Reed previously served as the global communications leader for Corporate Responsibility at Indiana-based Cummins Inc. The Ohio University graduate previously held posts with the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice and the American Legislative Exchange Council in Washington, D.C.

### **Governor's Appointments**

**Community Schools Dropout Recovery Study Committee:** Alex Johnson of Solon for a term beginning May 31, 2016 and continuing at the pleasure of the governor.

**Cleveland State University Board of Trustees:** Todd C. Davidson of Cleveland for a term beginning May 31, 2016 and ending May 1, 2025.

**Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas:** Thomas D. Heekin Jr. of Cincinnati will assume office on June 6, 2016 and must run in the November 2016 general election to retain the seat for the full term commencing January 4, 2017. Mr. Heekin holds degrees from the University of Colorado and University of Cincinnati. He has been a criminal litigator for Heekin & Heekin since 2002.

**State Employment Relations Board:** J. Richard Lumpe of Columbus for a term beginning June 1, 2016 and ending October 6, 2021.

### **Supplemental Agency Calendar**

#### **Thursday, June 2**

Elections Commission, Rm. East B., 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

#### **Monday, June 6**

STEM Designation Committee, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 1 p.m.

#### **Wednesday, June 8**

Consumers' Counsel Governing Board, Suite 1800, 10 W. Broad St., Columbus, 9 a.m.

**Thursday, June 16**

**Expositions Commission, Voinovich Center, 717 E. 17th Ave., Columbus, 11 a.m.**

**Supplemental Event Planner**

**Thursday, June 30**

**20th Annual Rockin' Fiscal Eve, Miller's Ale House, 1201 Olentangy River Rd., Columbus, 5 p.m.,**  
**(All-invited celebration**  
**of the end of MBRs in FY 2016 with MBRs (Massive Beer Rounds). Parking adjacent to building.)**

**17 S. High St., Suite 630**

**Columbus Ohio 43215**

**Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com)**

**Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley,**  
**Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers**

**Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.**


**© 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.**





## Senate Activity for Wednesday, June 1, 2016

### INTRODUCED

**SB 337**  **ROAD NAMING (Hughes, J.)** To designate a portion of Interstate Route 270 in Franklin County as the "Hilliard Patrol Officer Sean Johnson Memorial Highway." Am. 5534.44

17 S. High St., Suite 630  
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com)

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



## **Daily Activity Planner for Thursday, June 2**

### **Legislative Committees**

No legislative committees scheduled.

### **Agency Calendar**

Construction Industry Licensing Board, 6606 Tussing Road, OCILB Conference Room, Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m. (HVAC Section)

Elections Commission, Rm. East B., 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

State Employment Relations Board, 65 E. State St., 12th Fl., Columbus, 10 a.m.

### **Event Planner**

Ohio Department of Taxation public hearing on proposed current agricultural use values, 22rd Floor, 30 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 10 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com)

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

© 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.

**From:** The Buckeye Institute  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 8, 2016 9:59 AM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** How Ohio can grow its health care market amid federal changes

## New Policy Report

### **The Buckeye Institute prescribes policy pills for health care ills**

Did you know states can grow and improve their health care markets in 2017, regardless of who wins the presidency? A report released today by The Buckeye Institute shows how.

In *Health Care Challenges That States Should Prepare to Face in 2017*, Rea S. Hederman Jr. of The Buckeye Institute and Brian Blase with the Mercatus Center offer ways states can respond to Republican repeals or Democratic tweaks of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare.

At a minimum, the authors encourage Ohio and other states to:

- Reform their "certificate of need" regulations that prevent health care suppliers from growing or building new facilities.
- Expand "charity care" so that health professionals can provide free services to low-income residents in different parts of their state.
- Promote "telemedicine" for doctors to diagnose minor illnesses and prescribe medicine online to more rural residents.

There are other remedies states could -- and should -- consider to bring local control, lower costs, and higher quality to their health care markets. [Click here to download the PDF report](#) and get The Buckeye Institute's full policy prescription.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution -- a think tank -- whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,  
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

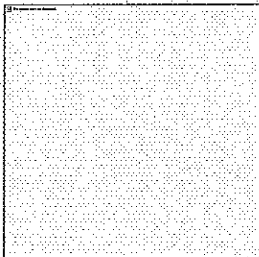
Sent by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:info@buckeyeinstitute.org)

**From:** The Buckeye Institute

**Sent:** Thursday, June 9, 2016 3:37 PM

**To:** Rep48

**Subject:** We are suing the Obama Administration over the Clean Power Plan; attend event June 29 to hear more



## **Exclusive Invitation**

### **We are suing the Obama Administration over the unconstitutional Clean Power Plan**

West Virginia Solicitor General arguing the case to speak at an  
exclusive luncheon, June 29, in Columbus

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was given unprecedented authority by President Obama to regulate carbon emissions across the country. Because the EPA's actions circumvent state authority and are unconstitutional, The Buckeye Institute, a coalition of other groups, and 26 states are suing the Obama Administration.

To explain the lawsuit against the president's Clean Power Plan, The Buckeye Institute and Columbus Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society are hosting the Solicitor General of West Virginia, Elbert Lin -- the lead oral advocate for the plaintiffs -- at an exclusive luncheon, June 29, in Columbus. The event will be moderated by The Buckeye Institute's president and CEO, Robert Alt.

**Will you join us for this important discussion?** [Click here](#), or the button below, for details on the event and on how to register.

**RSVP**

Help us fight this federal power grab and ensure Ohio is protected from the EPA's attempt to raise energy prices and kill manufacturing jobs in our state.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute,  
88 East Broad Street,  
#1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#)  
[rep48@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep48@ohiohouse.gov)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update  
file](#) | [About our service provider](#)  
Contact by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:info@buckeyeinstitute.org)

**From:** Greg Lawson  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 9, 2016 3:41 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting Request

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

I have had a few conversations with folks regarding the general issue of occupational licensing. It was suggested that we chat with Rep. Schuring on the issue. I would like to make a scheduling request to get on his calendar at his earliest convenience.

Greg R. Lawson  
*Statehouse Liaison and Policy Analyst*

**The Buckeye Institute**  
88 East Broad Street, Suite 1120 | Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 224-4422 | [BuckeyeInstitute.org](http://BuckeyeInstitute.org)



**From:** Heartland Institute: The Government Relations Team  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 9, 2016 4:04 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** The Leaflet - States Debate Internet Taxes

### States Debate Internet Taxes

States are currently debating whether internet purchases should be subject to a sales tax. In South Dakota, a court case is making headlines that could allow the state to collect sales taxes from online purchases. Brick-and-mortar retailers claim it's unfair internet companies aren't required to collect sales tax for not having a physical presence in the customer's state. Opponents of the tax argue the burden on businesses and consumers associated with the internet sales taxes make it a poor policy decision.

In a 2015 *Daily Signal* article, Philip Wegmann, a congressional correspondent for the Heritage Foundation, discusses the origins of the internet sales tax debate. "In the 1992 case *Quill v. North Dakota*, the Supreme Court ruled that a state could not require online companies to collect sales tax. Instead, taxation is tied to geography, the court ruled: A business incurs the burden of collecting sales tax only if it has an actual physical presence in that state." This important principle is commonly called the "nexus." D

Some states currently have laws that require online retailers to collect sales taxes if they have a store, warehouse, or subsidiary in-state or if they contract with a local business to advertise their products. Some states have no sales tax at all. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, an independent agency of the federal government created to aid, counsel, assist, and protect the interests of small business concerns, "Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Montana, New Hampshire and Oregon do not have a sales tax. In addition, most states have tax exemptions on certain items, such as food or clothing."

John Nothdurft, The Heartland Institute's government relations director, argues in a *Policy Tip Sheet*, "Allowing states to collect taxes on transactions occurring outside their borders is fundamentally unfair and threatens basic economic liberties. The persons paying and collecting the taxes do not have an opportunity to vote or otherwise participate in the government process that creates the tax or sets its rate. This 'taxation without representation' is compounded by the fact that those paying the taxes receive no public goods or services in return for their payment - 'taxation without benefits.'"

In a recent *Research & Commentary*, Heartland Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans argues states should adopt an "origin-based tax system" instead of creating a sales tax. "Instead of forcing out-of-state businesses to serve as government tax collectors, state legislators should

implement a sales tax system based on where the product was sold, known as an origin-based tax system,” wrote Glans. “This would truly level the playing field, with both online and brick-and-mortar retailers paying the same tax.”



### **Register Today for Heartland’s Emerging Issues Forums!**

The Heartland Institute is hosting two Emerging Issues Forums in 2016. The first will be held in Chicago, Illinois on August 7-8, immediately before the National Conference of State Legislature’s Legislative Summit. The second will be held in Orlando, Florida on December 15-17. The [Emerging Issues Forum](#) brings together elected officials, policy analysts, and government affairs professionals from across the country. Attendees will hear from leading free-market experts as they explore innovative solutions to the top public policy issues that will face the states in 2017 and beyond. **Registration to the event is *free* for elected officials, spouses, and legislative staff, and travel scholarships are available.** Space is limited, so please register today!

### **Budget & Tax**

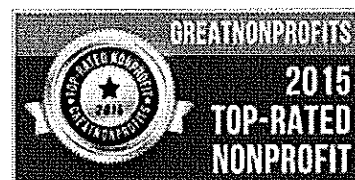
#### **Research & Commentary: Work Requirements Are a Necessary Component of Any SNAP Reform Plan**

Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans and State Government Relations Manager Logan Elizabeth Pike examine in this *Research & Commentary* new efforts by Congress to add work requirements to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), commonly referred to as “food stamps.” Glans and Pike say one of the biggest problems with SNAP and the reason it grew so quickly during the recent recession is the lack of any requirement that recipients actively seek employment: “States should have an immediate requirement for recipients to engage in work-related activities to be eligible for TANF and food stamps. States should also reform assistance programs that trap low-income Americans in poverty by disincentivizing work.” [Read more](#)

### **Education**

#### **Research & Commentary: North Carolina School Vouchers Expansion**

A bill that would substantially increase the size of North Carolina’s school voucher program was filed in the North Carolina Senate on May 10. The proposal would fund an additional 2,000 grants annually in the state’s Opportunity Scholarships voucher program, starting during the 2017-18 school year. This would continue until the 2027-28 school year. The expansion would cost an additional \$10 million annually,



**You have two opportunities this year to attend Heartland's Emerging Issues Forum!**

**Summer - Chicago, IL  
August 7-8, 2016**

**Winter - Orlando, FL  
December 15-17, 2016**

**Register Now!**

topping out at \$135 million in 2027-28. During the 2015-16 school year, North Carolina spent \$12 million on the program, which enrolled more than 2,500 children.

Under the program, each student receives a maximum voucher amount of \$4,200, which can be used for “tuition, transportation, equipment, or any other items required by qualifying private schools.” Students are eligible for the Opportunity Scholarships only if their family income is 133 percent or lower of the federal free- and reduced-price lunch program. Students must also have attended a public school during the previous semester to be eligible. In this *Research & Commentary*, Policy Analyst Tim Benson says polling shows North Carolina voters view educational choice favorably, and he argues vouchers give all families a greater opportunity to meet each child’s unique education needs. [Read more](#)

### **Energy & Environment**

#### **Heartland Releases New Book ‘Merchants of Despair**

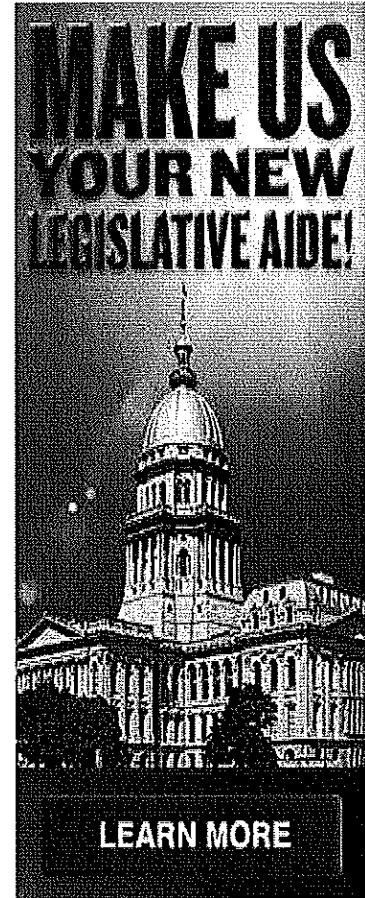
There was a time when humanity looked in the mirror and saw something precious and worth protecting and fighting for - indeed, worth liberating. But now, we are beset on all sides by propaganda promoting a radically different viewpoint. According to this idea, human beings are a cancer upon the Earth, a species whose aspirations and appetites are endangering the natural order. This is the core of antihumanism.

Robert Zubrin - the president of Pioneer Astronautics, a fellow of the Center for Security Policy, founder of the Mars Society, and a contributing editor to *The New Atlantis* - recently released his new book *Merchants of Despair*. The book names the chief prophets and promoters of antihumanism over the past two centuries, from Thomas Malthus through Paul Ehrlich and Al Gore. It exposes the worst crimes perpetrated by the antihumanist movement, including eugenics campaigns in the United States and genocidal anti-development and population-control programs around the world. [Read more](#)

### **Health Care**

#### **Research & Commentary: Missouri Should Move Away from Maintenance of Certification**

Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans writes in this *Research & Commentary* about the growing problems created by overzealous and expensive maintenance of certification (MOC) programs and the reasons they should be banned in Missouri. Glans argues MOC’s new requirements are excessive, costly, time-consuming, and unnecessary: “While a certain degree of certification will always be necessary, physicians should not be



The May issue of *Health Care News* reports on the Tennessee Senate’s unanimous approval of a resolution requesting Gov. Bill Haslam to apply for a federal waiver authorizing a pilot program for individuals who want to opt out of TennCare, the state’s

required to pass through a quagmire of costly and expensive tests that may be unnecessary. Oklahoma provides a model other states can follow to end MOCs completely; Missouri legislators should follow Oklahoma's lead and end this unnecessary burden on practicing physicians." [Read more](#)

#### **From Our Free-Market Friends**

##### The Buckeye Institute Releases New Health Care Report

A recent report released by The Buckeye Institute shows how states can grow and improve their health care markets in 2017. Rea S. Hederman Jr., the executive vice president and chief operating officer of The Buckeye Institute, and Mercatus Center Senior Research Fellow Brian Blase offer ways states can respond to the Affordable Care Act in *Health Care Challenges That States Should Prepare to Face in 2017*. The authors encourage Ohio and other states to reform their certificate-of-need regulations, which prevent health care suppliers from growing or building new facilities, and to expand charity care so that health professionals can provide free services to low-income residents in different parts of their state. They also recommend promoting telemedicine so doctors are empowered to diagnose minor illnesses from hundreds or even thousands of miles away and so that they can prescribe medicine online to rural residents who may otherwise be out of reach. [Read more](#)

Medicaid program. Lindsey Boyd, director of policy at the Beacon Center of Tennessee, said "we are supportive of efforts like Sen. [Mark] Green's that provide greater flexibility at the state level to address ... issues within the TennCare program."

#### **Budget & Tax News**

#### **Environment & Climate News**

#### **School Reform News**

### **Heartland Institute**

The Heartland Institute is a 30-year-old national non-profit organization dedicated to discovering, developing, and promoting free-market solutions to economic and social problems.

### **Our Websites**

[The Heartland Institute](#)  
[Heartlander Magazine](#)  
[PolicyBot](#)  
[Somewhat Reasonable](#)  
[The Parent Trigger](#)  
[ClimateWiki](#)  
[Climate Conference](#)

This message was sent to rep48@ohiohouse.gov from:

Heartland Institute: The Government Relations Team | nmakla@heartland.org |  
Heartland Institute | 3939 North Wilke Road | Arlington Heights, IL 60004

**Manage Your Subscription**

Email Marketing by

**iContact**  
TRY IT FOR FREE ▶

**From:** Rep48  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 9, 2016 4:49 PM  
**To:** 'Greg Lawson'  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting Request

Greg,

I will add your request to Representative Schuring's meeting request list.

Best,

Abby

Abby Schafer  
Legislative Fellow  
Office of Representative Kirk Schuring  
Ohio House of Representatives, District 48  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215  
614-752-2438

**From:** Greg Lawson [mailto:[greg@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:greg@buckeyeinstitute.org)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 09, 2016 3:41 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting Request

I have had a few conversations with folks regarding the general issue of occupational licensing. It was suggested that we chat with Rep. Schuring on the issue. I would like to make a scheduling request to get on his calendar at his earliest convenience.

Greg R. Lawson  
*Statehouse Liaison and Policy Analyst*

**The Buckeye Institute**  
88 East Broad Street, Suite 1120 | Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 224-4422 | [BuckeyeInstitute.org](http://BuckeyeInstitute.org)

**From:** Greg Lawson  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 9, 2016 4:54 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting Request

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Thank you.

Greg R. Lawson  
*Statehouse Liaison and Policy Analyst*

**The Buckeye Institute**  
88 East Broad Street, Suite 1120 | Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 224-4422 | [BuckeyeInstitute.org](http://BuckeyeInstitute.org)

On Thu, Jun 9, 2016 at 4:48 PM, [Rep48@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep48@ohiohouse.gov) <[Rep48@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep48@ohiohouse.gov)> wrote:

Greg,

I will add your request to Representative Schuring's meeting request list.

Best,

Abby

Abby Schafer

Legislative Fellow

Office of Representative Kirk Schuring

Ohio House of Representatives, District 48

77 South High Street

Columbus, OH 43215

614-752-2438

**From:** Greg Lawson [mailto:[greg@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:greg@buckeyeinstitute.org)]

**Sent:** Thursday, June 09, 2016 3:41 PM

**To:** Rep48

**Subject:** Re: Meeting Request

I have had a few conversations with folks regarding the general issue of occupational licensing. It was suggested that we chat with Rep. Schuring on the issue. I would like to make a scheduling request to get on his calendar at his earliest convenience.

Greg R. Lawson

*Statehouse Liaison and Policy Analyst*

**The Buckeye Institute**

88 East Broad Street, Suite 1120 | Columbus, Ohio 43215

(614) 224-4422 | [BuckeyeInstitute.org](http://BuckeyeInstitute.org)



**From:** The Buckeye Institute  
**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2016 9:54 AM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Ohio a national leader on jobs?

## **Buckeye Institute News Alert**

Contact: Jeff Reed  
Director of Communications  
The Buckeye Institute  
614-224-4422  
jeff@buckeyeinstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, June 17, 2016

### **Latest jobs report shows Ohio is a national leader, according to The Buckeye Institute**

COLUMBUS -- Increases in Ohio's employment and labor force participation rates last month make the state a national leader, according to a policy analyst at The Buckeye Institute. The state's latest jobs report showed Ohio's unemployment rate fell for the first time in nine months.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' May employment report, released Friday morning, shows the state's unemployment rate dropped to 5.1 percent in May from 5.2 percent in April. Labor force participation increased slightly in May to 63.6 percent from April's 63.5 percent. Buckeye's Joe Nichols said both combined make Ohio a national leader.

"Ohioans want to work, as evidenced by the continued increase in the state's labor force participation, which is outpacing the national average," Nichols said. "The fact unemployment finally dropped after nine months of stagnation means workers are starting to find jobs."

Over the last year, the United States labor force participation has remained virtually flat at 62.8 percent. By comparison, Ohio's labor force has grown nearly 1 percent over the last year to the current rate of 63.6 percent. Nichols says the state should continue to pursue policies to meet that rising demand.

"We should look at any policies or regulations that are barriers preventing Ohioans from finding meaningful work," Nichols said. "Gov. Kasich's recent signing of a measure that will allow cosmetologists to move up in their careers is representative of the types of reforms Ohio workers need."

The May report shows educational and health services added the most jobs last month (+7,900). The biggest losses came from manufacturers of durable goods (-5,200). Local government also continued to shrink, with 4,700 job losses.

The Buckeye Institute analyzes Ohio's unemployment rate to identify policy solutions for increasing job opportunities and strengthening the state economy.

# # #

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

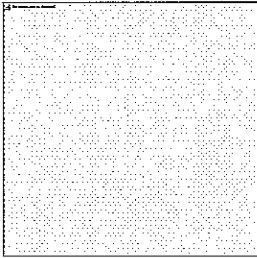
The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,  
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:SafeUnsubscribe%20rep48@ohiohouse.gov)

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [jeff@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:jeff@buckeyeinstitute.org)

**From:** The Buckeye Institute  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 22, 2016 2:34 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Have you registered yet?



## **Exclusive Invitation**

It is not too late to join our special luncheon on

### **Obama's Power Grab An Insider's Look at the Case Against the Clean Power Plan**

Featuring the plaintiffs' lead oral advocate

**Elbert Lin**  
**Solicitor General of West Virginia**

Wednesday, June 29  
12:00-1:30 p.m.  
The Athletic Club of Columbus  
136 East Broad Street  
Columbus, OH, 43215

President Obama's Clean Power Plan gave the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) unprecedented authority to regulate carbon emissions across the country. To stop the EPA's unconstitutional actions, The Buckeye Institute, a coalition of groups, and 26 states are suing the Obama Administration.

To explain the lawsuit, The Buckeye Institute and Columbus Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society are hosting the Solicitor General of West Virginia,

Elbert Lin, the lead oral advocate for the plaintiffs against the Clean Power Plan. The event will be moderated by The Buckeye Institute's president and CEO, Robert Alt. [Click here](#), or the RSVP button below, to register.

**RSVP**

For more info, contact The Buckeye Institute's Erin Sutter at (614) 224-4422.

###

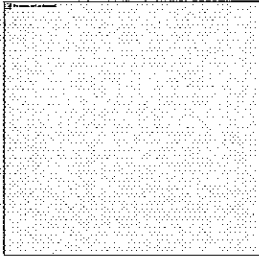
Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute,  
88 East Broad Street,  
P.O. Box 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#)  
[rep48@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep48@ohiohouse.gov)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update  
profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)  
Contact us by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:info@buckeyeinstitute.org)

**From:** The Buckeye Institute  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 26, 2016 3:51 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Taxpayers deserve better



## National News Alert

The Buckeye Institute is standing up against government bailouts. And this weekend, we went to The Hill to make sure our message is heard nationwide.

In "Will taxpayers be on the hook for Puerto Rico's debt?," Buckeye's Greg Lawson wrote:

Puerto Rico has a huge debt problem. The U.S. territory has amassed around \$72 billion in liabilities, more than 100 percent of its gross national product -- and that does not even include its pension obligations. ...

Rather than deal with the root cause of the problem -- out-of-control spending by its government -- Puerto Rico is turning to the U.S. government as a savior.

With a potential Puerto Rico "bailout" looming this coming week, The Buckeye Institute is sounding the alarm on the likelihood that taxpayers could be forced to pay for irresponsible states in the future. For the full story from The Hill, click here.

Whether in Washington, D.C., Ohio, or other states across the country, The Buckeye Institute will continue to show why free markets -- not government's "free" bailouts -- are the real solution for economic growth and opportunity.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and

educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

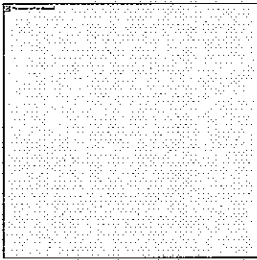
The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,  
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:info@buckeyeinstitute.org)

**From:** The Buckeye Institute  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 28, 2016 8:11 AM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Last chance



## **Exclusive Invitation**

Registration closes today  
and there are only a few seats left for tomorrow's luncheon on

### **Obama's Power Grab** **An Insider's Look at the Case Against the Clean Power Plan**

Featuring the plaintiffs' lead oral advocate

**Elbert Lin**  
**Solicitor General of West Virginia**

Wednesday, June 29  
12:00-1:30 p.m.  
The Athletic Club of Columbus  
136 East Broad Street  
Columbus, OH, 43215

President Obama's Clean Power Plan gave the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) unprecedented authority to regulate carbon emissions across the country. To stop the EPA's unconstitutional actions, The Buckeye Institute, a coalition of groups, and 26 states are suing the Obama Administration.



To explain the lawsuit, The Buckeye Institute and Columbus Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society are hosting the Solicitor General of West Virginia, Elbert Lin, the lead oral advocate for the plaintiffs against the Clean Power Plan. The event will be moderated by The Buckeye Institute's president and CEO, Robert Alt. [Click here](#), or the RSVP button below, to register today.

**RSVP**

For more info, contact The Buckeye Institute's Erin Sutter at (614) 224-4422.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,  
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

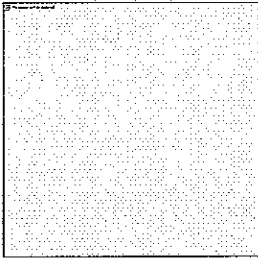
Sent by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:info@buckeyeinstitute.org)

**From:** The Buckeye Institute

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 29, 2016 11:29 AM

**To:** Rep48

**Subject:** Fight Another Day: Ice Axes, Second Chances, and Supreme Court Losses



## Message from the President

Dear Friends,

My headlamp strained to illuminate the icy ground in the pitch-blackness. I was climbing a glacier on Mount Rainier, making the final push for the summit around 2 a.m.

Success lay a short distance in front of me.

When I took the next step, my whole body free fell. The secure-looking ground in front of me was in fact nothing more than snow forming a "bridge" over a deep fissure--a crevasse--in the glacier. To avoid continuing to fall to unknown depths below, I plunged my ice axe forward into solid ice, and was able to pull myself back to safety. There would be no summit this time, I would have to turn back to base camp, but I would be back to fight another day.

Sometimes we give a worthy cause everything we have, rising in the middle of the night to attempt the summit, but are nonetheless handed defeat. Yesterday was such a day. The defeat was not on one of my beloved mountains, but at the United States Supreme Court, where The Buckeye Institute's Legal Center was fighting for *you*. Let me explain.

The Buckeye Institute works tirelessly to defend the First Amendment rights of citizens to be able to support charitable causes they believe in without being put on a government list. Whether you support free-market or progressive causes; gun rights or gun control; pro-life or pro-choice causes is none of the government's business, thank you very much. This long-acknowledged

constitutional right has been under attack in several states, and Buckeye has gone to the courts to defend the privacy of supporters of all causes--from left to right and everything in between.

The most recent abuse came from Delaware, where state law requires charities that publish items (even on the internet) mentioning the name of a candidate within 60 days of an election to report to the government the names, addresses, and contribution amounts of all donors who gave more than \$100 to the group--even if the individual gave to the charity for purposes other than the publication. Non-partisan voter guides, policy reports, and summaries of legislation are a few of the kinds of communications that could require charities to make this unconstitutional reporting.

With the able assistance of brilliant attorneys at Jones Day, The Buckeye Institute joined our friends at the Center for Competitive Politics in asking the U.S. Supreme Court to strike down Delaware's law in a case called *Delaware Strong Families v. Denn*. Yesterday, the Court declined to hear the case. As disappointing as this setback is, the Court did not uphold the law either--it simply chose not to make a decision one way or the other.

Yet there is reason for hope.

Like an ice axe sunk deep into a solid glacial ice, Justice Thomas persuasively argued not only that the Court should have heard the case, but strongly suggested that this law is unconstitutional. Thomas observed that "[g]iven the specter of these First Amendment harms, a State's purported interest in disclosure cannot justify revealing the identities of an organization's otherwise anonymous donors." And Justice Alito stated that he would have heard the case as well.

And so, we will be back to fight another day. For you. And for all Americans to be free to support whatever causes you choose without fear of intimidation and the threat of being put on some permanent government list. And next time, we aim to make the summit.

Upward,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Alt", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Alt

P.S. Won't you join us in continuing the fight? Your contribution helps us to continue our work to support the right of all Americans to support causes without it going on your "permanent record."

P.P.S. Here is a glimpse of a 50-foot deep crevasse that I encountered on the ill-fated Rainier climb (not the one I fell into). As for my own fight, I am going back to climb Mount Rainier in September....



###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

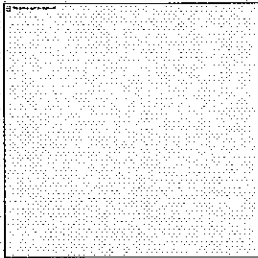
The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,  
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](#)

**From:** The Buckeye Institute  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 6, 2016 4:49 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Our warning came true



## News Alert

Understanding Ohio's tax scheme for expanding Medicaid is taxing to say the least. And now it will cost Ohio -- \$1.1 billion. The Buckeye Institute saw this problem three years ago and offered solutions. We still are.

The stories below detail Ohio's forthcoming budget shortfall and include The Buckeye Institute's warnings on the expiring federal loophole to "pay" for Medicaid.

*The Columbus Dispatch*

### **Buckeye Institute on sales tax: Told you so**

As Jim Siegel wrote this week in the *Dispatch*:

"The Buckeye Institute knew this was very likely to happen," said Greg Lawson, senior policy analyst for the conservative think tank.

Ohio is facing a revenue shortage because the federal government is putting an end to the state's application of the sales tax (state and local) to Medicaid managed care organizations. The tax has allowed the state to

bring in hundreds of millions of dollars per year in federal matching dollars, while also allowing counties and transit authorities to benefit through their piggyback sales taxes.

[Click here for the full story.](#)

*Statehouse News Bureau*

## **Think Tank Critical Of Medicaid Expansion Says "Told You So" To Possible Budget Problem**

In a story today by the Statehouse News Bureau, Buckeye's Greg Lawson was interviewed by Karen Kasler who noted:

Gov. John Kasich's Medicaid expansion included a sales tax on Medicaid managed care organizations, which has brought in a billion dollars in tax revenue and matching federal money. A lot of that goes to county governments and local transit authorities. The feds now say the state can't charge that tax. Greg Lawson with the Buckeye Institute has been critical of the plan since the beginning. "We really do hate to have to be the ones to say, 'I told you so,' because the reality is this was a situation that was imminently foreseeable."

[Click here to listen to the full interview.](#)

The Buckeye Institute will continue to sound the alarm on irresponsible government measures and identify solutions for strengthening health care and the economy. For The Buckeye Institute's 2015 paper, "Medicaid Expansion Relies on Uncertain Funding," [click here.](#)

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,  
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:info@buckeyeinstitute.org)



**From:** Gongwer News Service  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 7, 2016 6:14 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Ohio Report, Thursday, July 7, 2016  
**Attachments:** Jul7.htm; 160707dayplan.htm; Jul8Schedule.htm



## **Ohio Report for Thursday, July 7, 2016**

Stakeholders Point To New Charter Laws As Closures Increase, ODE Denies All Sponsorship Applications

Medicaid Underspending Driven By Increased Enrollment In Expansion Program, Administration Says

November Ballot Won't Include Any Citizen-Initiated Amendments, Statutes; Some Groups Set Sights On 2017

High Court Set To Hear Two Death Penalty Cases, Along With Four Other Cases Next Week

June Revenue Down At Most Casinos, All Racinos

Cleveland, Akron To Join White House Mentorship Initiative

In Cincinnati, Trump Expands On Controversies; ODP Blasts Billionaire's Business Record

Court Briefs: Buckeye Institute Files Brief In 'Golden Week' Lawsuit; Former Mayor Legally Fired From Lottery Commission Post...

Capitol Scene: Fadel Appointed Ohio Insurance Institute President

Supplemental Agency Calendar

## **Calendars**

Day Planner

Legislative Committee Schedules

---

Please send all correspondence to [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com) This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

Copyright, 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without express permission from Gongwer News Service.



**Volume #85, Report #130 -- Thursday, July 7, 2016**

**Stakeholders Point To New Charter Laws As Closures Increase, ODE Denies All Sponsorship Applications**

In the wake of updated charter school laws, the list of buildings closing this summer is longer than ever and the Department of Education has declined to sponsor any new schools that submitted applications.

At the end of the fiscal year, 20 charter schools did not sign new sponsor contracts and will close their doors, according to ODE. Of those, 11 were given notice in January that their sponsors were dropping them, typically because of poor academic performance, while the other half closed voluntarily. (Closure List)

More than 100 other schools have shut down in the last five years, but this year's group is the largest since June 30, 2014 when 19 schools did not sign new contracts.

A handful of the schools that were given notice that their contracts wouldn't be renewed applied to ODE's Office of School Sponsorship, which can sponsor start-up schools and take over existing schools looking for new sponsors.

None of the 10 schools that sought new sponsorship were approved, however - a first for the department, according to application records from previous years. (Sponsorship Applicants)

Charter schools sponsors and supporters point to tighter closure and sponsorship laws (HB 2) as a cause for this year's stats.

Ron Adler, president of the Ohio Coalition for Quality Education, said it's likely that schools will continue to close in higher numbers each year because of sponsors' concerns about how their schools' state report card scores will impact their evaluations.

"I think that there are probably some schools being closed that probably need to be closed. However, I think sponsors today, with some of the criteria that has come through the Ohio Department of Education that has made it almost impossible and created penalties, they don't want to sponsor some schools," he said.

"We've got some sponsors that are very good at turning around schools and (ODE) has created such a fear factor that sponsors are hesitant for their own existence to help and improve the schools."

The new sponsor evaluations, which are detailed in the latest charter school legislation and overseen by ODE, factor in quality, compliance and academic performance.

Sponsors that don't score well in those areas could face losing their ability to continue sponsoring schools.

Sponsors have said they're prepared for poor showings in the performance category because of lower state test scores across the board. Unlike traditional schools, charters were not granted safe harbor from impacts related to report card results reflecting new standardized exams.

In addition to calling out lawmakers for failing to provide them with safe harbor, sponsors have also recently complained that it will be impossible to meet deadlines for producing compliance documentation that was requested by ODE as a result of the new laws. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 30, 2016)

"I think that House Bill 2 is being revered by some," Mr. Adler said in an interview. "I see it as all compliance, compliance, compliance. It is 106 pages of rules, regulations and mandates that just make it more difficult to operate and improve achievement."

Chad Aldis, vice president of Ohio policy and advocacy for the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, agreed that it is likely sponsors gave consideration to the new evaluations when making closure decisions this year.

But, he said he's hopeful that any needed tweaks can be made to both the laws and as the new procedures play out over the next few years.

"There are a lot of good charter schools and we wouldn't want to see them closed as a result of this and you also wouldn't want to see sponsors so afraid of the provisions that they won't open potentially new, strong, innovative schools that could really make a difference for kids," Mr. Aldis said.

"I think what we're in right now is a little bit of a correction phase and hopefully sponsors will have confidence in their decisions and continue to open schools when the school is likely to be successful."

Five sponsors in the state have plans to open 10 start-up schools for the 2016-17 school year, according to ODE. (Potential New Schools List)

ODE's Office of School Sponsorship will be evaluated with all other sponsors, but is not impacted by the new rating system that could prohibit a sponsor from taking on new schools or put a sponsor out of business.

However, the office took a more discerning approach this year when reviewing applications for taking over existing schools or aiding start-up operations.

"A top priority for the Ohio Department of Education is a strong system of accountability for all schools in our state, including charter schools and their sponsors," agency spokeswoman Brittany Halpin said. "Provisions in the recent charter school reform

legislation strengthen the department's ability to support high quality options for the state's students."

In the past, the department was required to sponsor any school that followed the application process correctly, but new laws allow it to deny schools that aren't meeting certain standards.

Mr. Aldis called the update that allowed it to decline all of this year's applications a "smart change."

"If (ODE) is going to sponsor schools, it should absolutely be able to determine whether the schools are performing well before it just takes one on," he said in an interview.

It's possible schools will continue to close at the same pace in coming years because House Bill 2 also put in place some guardrails to limit so-called "sponsor-hopping," Mr. Aldis said.

Updated laws prohibit charter schools from seeking new sponsorship if they don't meet fiscal management or performance requirements.

"The ability for lower performing schools to change sponsors is not what it used to be, so when you see the overall number of closures, some of those in the past might have gone on to a different sponsor and that can't happen now," he said.

### **Medicaid Underspending Driven By Increased Enrollment In Expansion Program, Administration Says**

The Kasich administration credits an improving economy and a more accurate eligibility determination system with driving nearly \$1.3 billion in Medicaid underspending last fiscal year.

The Medicaid program finished the year spending about \$926 million less than expected from the General Revenue Fund, and nearly \$1.3 billion less than expected from all funds, according to the Governor's Office of Health Transformation.

The underspending continues a longtime trend in the program covering multiple administrations. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 6, 2016)

According to OHT, the program enrolled about 3 million Ohioans on an average monthly basis during fiscal year 2016, about 32,000 below projections. While the overall enrollment was below projections, the number of people enrolled in the expansion group, which is completely funded by federal dollars, increased by 26,000.

Meanwhile, the number of people enrolled in the traditional program, which is partially funded by the state, was 58,000 below the estimate, according to OHT.

The administration said part of this shift is due to an improving economy - as people make more money, they move out of traditional Medicaid and into the expansion group, which includes people making up to 138% of the federal poverty level.

OHT also credited a new and more accurate system to determine eligibility, which assigns new enrollees to the proper category and moves them off the program as their finances improve.

Total Medicaid spending from all funding sources was \$25.3 billion, of which nearly \$17 billion came through the General Revenue Fund.

The federal share of Medicaid spending last fiscal year was \$715 million, or 3.9%, below the original budget estimate, while the state's share was \$550 million, or 6.7%, below the original estimate, according to OHT.

In fiscal year 2015, the Department of Medicaid reported total Medicaid spending of \$1.9 billion below the original budget estimate.

That year, enrollment for the expansion group was more than 152,000 above the original estimate, while enrollment in the traditional program was 192,000 below estimate.

### **November Ballot Won't Include Any Citizen-Initiated Amendments, Statutes; Some Groups Set Sights On 2017**

No citizen-initiated issues will appear on November's ballot, Secretary of State Jon Husted announced Thursday, a day after the deadline to file petitions for proposed constitutional amendments and initiated statutes.

A few high-profile efforts to reach the ballot were made this year, including two related to medical marijuana and one related to prescription drug prices, but none of those issues found a place on the ballot in November.

Backers of an initiated statute designed to lower the cost of prescription drugs will aim for 2017, said Michael Weinstein, president of the California-based AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which supported the measure.

Supporters of the proposal, called the Ohio Drug Price Relief Act, initially gathered enough signatures to bring it before the legislature, where no action was taken, but a review of those petitions by the secretary of state's office delayed the collection of signatures, prompting lawsuits by the initiated statute's supporters in state and federal courts. Both cases were dismissed after Mr. Husted transmitted the proposal to the General Assembly. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 19, 2016)

In an email, Mr. Weinstein said the proposal will have to wait for next year after the delays.

"We will go for 2017," he said. "We are collecting and will submit sufficient signatures within the 90 days allowed."

Another lawsuit, filed by industry groups challenging the petition signatures gathered for the initiated statute, is ongoing. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 8, 2016)

A proposal dealing with lawmaker lobbying, called Ethics First - You Decide Ohio, also made a push for the ballot. The Ballot Board divided the issue into three different issues, a decision the amendment's backers challenged in the Ohio Supreme Court. The Court dismissed that challenge in May. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2016)

Ronald Alban, one of the proposal's backers, said in an email that they have no intention of moving forward with the proposal.

Two citizen-initiated proposals to legalize medical marijuana, one backed by the Washington-based Marijuana Policy Project and the other by a group called Grassroots Ohio, will also not appear on the ballot after an early push in the wake of last year's failed Issue 3 vote.

The MPP-backed Ohioans for Medical Marijuana group announced it would not pursue the ballot after lawmakers passed a bill (HB 523) in May creating a medical marijuana system. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 31, 2016)

Backers of Grassroots Ohio have said they are pushing forward with their proposal, which would create a constitutional right to possess marijuana for a medical purpose, with an eye on the 2017 ballot.

### **High Court Set To Hear Two Death Penalty Cases, Along With Four Other Cases Next Week**

The Ohio Supreme Court will hear appeals in two death penalty cases next week.

In one case, an Akron man convicted of the 2011 murders of his children's mother and her boyfriend plans to raise 14 legal claims in appealing both his sentence and conviction.

David Spaulding, who was sentenced to death for the 2011 murder of Erica Singleton and Ernest Thomas, will argue that he received ineffective legal counsel because both of his attorneys were not present for all proceedings in the case, that a witness' statement should have been suppressed and that he was denied legal counsel during interrogation.

Ms. Singleton obtained a civil protection order against Mr. Spaulding on Dec. 1, 2011, following a string of domestic violence incidents. However, two weeks later, Mr. Spaulding showed up at the place Ms. Singleton was staying with Mr. Thomas. He first shot another tenant, Patrick Griffin, who was paralyzed by the shooting, before killing Ms. Singleton and Mr. Thomas in their driveway.

In January 2013, a jury convicted Mr. Spaulding of aggravated murder, attempted murder and violation of a protection order.

In the second case, a Medina County man will argue that seven claims of legal and procedural errors should afford him a new trial.

Steven Cepec will claim that, among other issues, he was prejudiced by statements in court about a prior burglary conviction, that the trial court should have held a hearing on the competency of a witness and that his constitutional rights were violated because police continued to question him after he asked for a lawyer.

Mr. Cepec was convicted of murder, aggravated robbery and aggravated burglary following the 2010 death of Frank Munz, who was found bludgeoned with a hammer and strangled with a lamp cord.

Police arrived on the scene while Mr. Cepec was still in the home after receiving a call from Mr. Munz's nephew, Paul Munz, whose testimony at trial was called into question in the appeal. Upon arrival by the police, Mr. Cepec fled on foot. He was later found nearby hiding under a bush, the court reported.

The high court will hear four other cases next week:

- In *re Application of Buckeye Wind*, the high court will hear arguments from Champaign County residents that a hearing should be held on amended construction plans for the state's first wind-powered generation facility. The Power Siting Board approved a construction application in 2010 and the developer proposed revision to the plans in 2013.
- In *Disciplinary Counsel v. Joltin*, disciplinary counsel will object to the professional conduct board's proposed sanctions on a Canfield attorney found to have mishandled client funds, mismanaged his client trust account and not fully cooperated with the investigation. The professional conduct board proposed a sanction of two years, with 18 months stayed under certain conditions. However, disciplinary counsel will argue for an indefinite suspension.
- In *Defiance County v. Testa*, the court will consider whether the tax commissioner lawfully denied a Defiance County commissioner's request to transfer \$2.5 million from the county landfill fund to pay for emergency repairs to the county courthouse and to make renovations to meet federal Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.
- In *Foley v. University of Dayton*, the court will decide what the statute of limitations is for filing a negligent misidentification claim and whether absolute privilege or qualified privilege shield the defendants' statements to law enforcement.

**June Revenue Down At Most Casinos, All Racinos**



Overall revenue at Ohio's four casinos was down in June, with three of them seeing decreases from May, according to the Casino Control Commission.

The four casinos took in \$62.9 million in revenue in June, down from \$66.5 million in May and the lowest total of the year so far, according to revenue reports. Last June, the casinos brought in \$63.5 million, the lowest monthly total of the year.

Video lottery terminals at the state's racinos brought in a total of \$70.7 million in June, down from \$78.2 million in May. They ended the fiscal year with nearly \$869 million in revenue, up from \$773 million in fiscal year 2015. (VLT reports)

JACK Cleveland was the only Ohio casino to see an uptick in revenue in June, bringing in \$16.3 million compared to just over \$16 million in May, according to revenue reports. The casino was closed for 40 hours in May while it rebranded from Horseshoe Cleveland to JACK Cleveland.

Of JACK Cleveland's revenue, \$8.7 million came from table games, while \$7.6 came from slot machines, according to the report. The casino's monthly revenue was up nearly \$2 million from \$14.4 million in June 2015.

JACK Cincinnati saw the biggest drop in revenue in June, bringing in \$14.1 million compared to \$16.2 million the month before. JACK Cincinnati was closed for 40 hours in June to rebrand from Horseshoe Cincinnati. Of its revenue in June, \$9.4 million came from slot machines and \$4.6 million came from table games. Last June, the casino brought in \$16.1 million.

Hollywood Columbus saw revenue drop by more than \$860,000, falling from nearly \$17.8 million in May to more than \$16.9 million in June. Slot machines accounted for \$11.8 million in revenue, while table games accounted for \$5.1 million. Last June, the casino's revenue was \$16.4 million.

Hollywood Toledo saw revenue drop nearly \$900,000 to \$15.6 million in June, with more than \$13 million coming from slot machines and \$2.6 million coming from table games. Last June, the casino took in \$16.6 million.

**Racinos:** VLT revenue at all seven of the state's racinos declined from May to June, with Scioto Downs seeing the largest decrease, dropping nearly \$1.7 million from just under \$13.5 million in May to just under \$11.8 million in June.

At Hard Rock Racino Northfield Park, revenue fell more than \$1.5 million to \$17.9 million in June, while at Miami Valley Gaming it fell by nearly \$1.5 million to \$10.8 million.

Revenue at JACK Thistledown Racino fell by more than \$941,000 to \$9.1 million. At Hollywood Mahoning Valley Race Course, it fell by nearly \$806,000 to \$7.6 million. Revenue at Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway fell more than \$693,000 to just under \$7 million in June, and revenue at Belterra Park fell more than \$457,000 to \$6.4 million.

## **Cleveland, Akron To Join White House Mentorship Initiative**

U.S. Sen Sherrod Brown will be joined by administration officials this week in Northeast Ohio to expand an initiative that aims to provide mentoring and opportunities for boys and young men of color.

My Brother's Keeper, a program launched by President Obama in 2014, is coming to Akron and Cleveland Friday, the Avon Democrat announced in a Thursday call with reporters.

They will join Dayton, Columbus, Massillon, East Cleveland and Berea in becoming MBK communities that provide mentorship and resources. Sen. Brown said Cincinnati is also preparing to take part in the initiative.

"It's up to all of us to ensure that all our children - regardless of their zip code or the color of their skin - have the opportunity to succeed," he said. "And I hope more cities across our state will accept the My Brother's Keeper Challenge, and work toward that goal."

Nearly 250 communities have agreed to be part of the MBK Challenge, said Broderick Johnson, chair of president's MBK Task Force. Partnerships in those communities have resulted in more than \$600 million in grants and in-kind resources.

One of the latest drives of the initiative is to link sixth and ninth graders with mentors who can provide support and encouragement to go to school and work toward graduation, he said. Cleveland will be among 30 communities in the country that will provide those mentors focused on reducing chronic absences from school.

Federal agencies also recently partnered to launch the Second Chance Pell pilot program under the MBK umbrella, Mr. Johnson said. It allows 67 colleges and universities - including Ashland University - to provide Pell Grants to 12,000 inmates.

"We're working to make sure the various departments of the federal government that are part of the MBK Task Force continue to look at the programs they have and collaborate on programs to make sure that we can better target federal resources and partnerships with the private sector so that every child in this country has a clear pathway to success, really from crib through college and career," he said during the call.

MBK Mentor Quinn Howard said the program is working in Dayton to provide positive role models for young men of color.

The starting point for Dayton's mentorship program is to help youth "see themselves as contributors to the community," he said.

"Young men in our community need to see positive role models that they can emulate," Mr. Howard said. "It is important not only to provide young men with direction and guidance but to also build nurturing relationships through listening and understanding."

Mentoring young men with basic fundamental values will hopefully provide them with a sense of purpose that can help can help them succeed in life."

### **In Cincinnati, Trump Expands On Controversies; ODP Blasts Billionaire's Business Record**

Before Donald Trump took the stage in Cincinnati Wednesday evening, he was expected to use the speech to hammer Hillary Clinton over recent events pertaining to her use of a private email server.

Instead, he spent most of his time stoking further controversy over his recent comments on Saddam Hussein and doubling down in his defense of an image he tweeted that has been deemed to be anti-Semitic.

The GOP presumptive nominee did strike out at Ms. Clinton in his stream-of-consciousness remarks, deriding an FBI recommendation that she not be charged and, in a tangent, likening her to a mosquito when one landed on his lectern.

"It's a disgrace," he said. "She has got bad judgment."

But the candidate spent more than two-thirds of his more than one-hour long speech seeking to explain his own controversies in recent days, effectively fanning the media attention those remarks have received.

That includes controversy over Mr. Trump's Saturday tweet featuring a picture of Ms. Clinton against a backdrop of dollar bills with a six-pointed star containing the text "Most corrupt politician ever."

The tweet drew criticism from those contending the graphic is rooted in anti-Semitism, but Mr. Trump has since said the star is less a Star of David and more of a "sheriff's badge" and that it is the media, not his campaign, that is being prejudicial.

"(The media's) profiling," he told the Sharonville crowd. "Not us. Because why are they bringing this up?"

Mr. Trump, in his most expansive remarks on the topic yet, said he was disappointed his staff took down the tweet.

He also expanded on his prior remarks at a Tuesday rally and in interviews in which he seemingly praised Saddam Hussein for dispatching terrorists. House Speaker Paul Ryan and others have criticized the remarks.

In his comments Wednesday, Mr. Trump said it was inaccurate to characterize his comments as "praise" for the fallen dictator.

"I said Saddam Hussein is a bad man...but he did one thing well: he killed terrorists," Mr. Trump said. "I wake up and turn on the television: 'Donald Trump loves Saddam Hussein.' That's not what I said."

In a one-on-one interview with the Cincinnati Enquirer, Mr. Trump said, "That's not praising Saddam Hussein. I would say maybe it's the opposite."

The interview seemingly led a Trump spokeswoman to attempt to "dress down" the reporter for "disrespectful questioning," according to tweets of the exchange from the journalist.

"I said Trump's the GOP candidate for president and tough questions are part of the job," the reporter tweeted. "(Trump press secretary Hope Hicks) said as a candidate he deserves respect."

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a potential VP pick, also appeared at the rally, though his appearance was overshadowed in media reports by Mr. Trump's speech.

He accused the Clintons of corruption and questioned the timing of the recent FBI announcement. He also took a swipe at Gov. John Kasich, who has declined to endorse the billionaire, saying that although the governor "is a good friend of mine, it's about time he got on the Trump bandwagon."

**Democrats:** State Party Chairman David Pepper and Columbus City Councilmember Jaiza Page held a press conference on the steps of Columbus City Hall Thursday, responding to Mr. Trump's remarks and seeking to cast him as a failed businessman.

Mr. Pepper contrasted Mr. Trump's Cincinnati appearance with Ms. Clinton's Ohio visit last week, saying of Mr. Trump's speech "I don't even know how to characterize what a disturbing speech it was." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 27, 2016)

Organized by the Clinton campaign, the event was the latest in a line of attacks from Clinton supporters on Mr. Trump's business dealings in Atlantic City, which they contend includes bankruptcies, failures to pay contractors and the loss of hundreds of jobs.

Mr. Trump has promised to bring the same level of success to running the country as he has to his business ventures.

"(In Atlantic City,) Trump came out on top but the city didn't," Mr. Pepper said. "It's not just Atlantic City. This is a pattern over the years all around the country.... We just can't let Donald Trump do to Ohio, do to Columbus, what he did to Atlantic City and what he's done to innocent Americans all over the state through his business actions and scams."

**Court Briefs: Buckeye Institute Files Brief In 'Golden Week' Lawsuit; Former Mayor Legally Fired From Lottery Commission Post...**

The Buckeye Institute has joined the battle over whether Ohioans should have a five-day window in which they can register to vote and cast ballots on the same day.

The group has filed a brief in the U.S. Sixth District Court of Appeals supporting Secretary of State Jon Husted's challenge to a lower court ruling that found the elimination of "Golden Week" to be a violation of the Voting Rights Act. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2016)

U.S. District Court Judge Michael Watson found that the elimination of Golden Week disproportionately impacted black voters in Ohio.

The Buckeye Institute, however, challenged that finding in its brief.

"The fact that African Americans previously used Golden Week at slightly higher rates does not suggest that they will somehow stop participating under the new law. All the minority voters who voted in Golden Week are ready and able to vote in the current four-week period, and there is no evidence suggesting they will not avail themselves of that broad opportunity," it reads.

Representing The Buckeye Institute in the case is Michael Carvin, an election and appellate law expert with the global Jones Day law firm.

"Plaintiffs argue that a federal law that has been on the books for 34 years suddenly requires Ohio to extend its already generous early voting and requires Ohio to permit same-day registration. The law does no such things," Mr. Carvin said in a statement. "Nor does it invalidate the laws of the 40 states that offer fewer voting days than Ohio."

**Firing:** The Court of Claims has found that former Seven Hills Mayor David Bentkowski was legally terminated from his post at the Lottery Commission.

Mr. Bentkowski, who was terminated in November 2012, alleged that his supervisor and the lottery's director of human resources engaged in discriminatory practices. He claimed Elizabeth Popadiuk made discriminatory remarks about Lottery Commission employees, which she denied, the high court reported.

Court of Claims Judge Patrick McGrath found that Mr. Bentkowski failed to prove that his firing was payback for claiming the employer was engaged in discriminating practices.

**Pro Bono Work:** Ohio attorneys provided pro bono work in 2015 to the tune of \$10.3 million, the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation and the Ohio Supreme Court reported Thursday.

More than 4,300 attorneys reported pro bono activity in 2015, accounting for about 76,300 hours of free legal service.

Another \$406,000 was donated to organizations that provide legal services to low-income Ohioans.

"We were excited that the number of attorneys who voluntarily reported their pro bono work more than doubled from last year," OLAF's Pro Bono and Communications Director Jane Taylor said in a statement. "I believe these results reflect the Court's continuing emphasis on access to justice for all and its strong commitment to ensuring that every Ohioan can get legal help, regardless of income."

### **Capitol Scene: Fadel Appointed Ohio Insurance Institute President**

Longtime Ohio Insurance Institute staffer Dean Fadel will serve as the association's newest president, OII Board Chairman Tim Timmel announced Thursday.

Mr. Fadel, who has been with OII since 1988 and currently serves as its vice president of government relations, will transition to the new position over the next few weeks, according to the board.

He'll replace President Dan Kelso, who recently announced retirement plans. Mr. Kelso had led the association since 1989, when it merged with the Insurance Federation of Ohio, which he had overseen since 1977.

"We're confident that the association will continue making great strides on behalf of its members, Ohio's property/casualty (P/C) insurance companies, with a focus on maintaining the stable, affordable insurance environment that Ohio consumers have experienced for decades," Mr. Timmel said of the transition.

### **Supplemental Agency Calendar Wednesday, July 13**

**Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.**

17 S. High St., Suite 630  
Columbus Ohio 43215  
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com)

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



## **Daily Activity Planner for Friday, July 8**

### **Legislative Committees**

No legislative committees scheduled.

### **Agency Calendar**

**Board of Building Standards, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room, Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m. (The Code Committee will meet immediately after the full board.)**

**State Emergency Response Commission, 2855 W. Dublin-Granville Rd., Columbus, 1:15 p.m.**

### **Event Planner**

**Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) golf outing fundraiser, Mohawk Golf and Country Club, 4399 S. State Route 231, Tiffin, 8:30 a.m., (8:30am Light Breakfast and Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Major Sponsor: \$2,500; Registration Sponsor: \$1,500; Scoreboard Sponsor: \$750; Foursome: \$600; Driving Range Sponsor: \$500; Beverage Cart Sponsor: \$250; Individual Golfer: \$175; Hole Sponsor: \$150 to Friends of Bill Reineke)**

**Summer Fridays at the Statehouse concert, West Steps, Statehouse, Columbus, 12 p.m., (RMT)**

**17 S. High St., Suite 630  
Columbus Ohio 43215**

**Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com)**

**Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers**

**© 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.**